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Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein (left) shares a toast with (left to right) Justice Minister Tzahi Henegbi, State Attorney Edna Arbel, and former attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair, upon assuming his new post yesterday. (Brian Hender)

Rubinstein assumes A-G post

Elyakim Rubinstein assumed the post of attorney-general yesterday, saying he was accepting his new responsibilities with "fear and love." The fear, he said, stemmed from the possibility that he would make a serious mistake, while the love was for the courts and for the post.

The new attorney-general was warmly welcomed with a festive reception at the Justice Ministry in Jerusalem, attended by Justice Minister Tzahi Henegbi, former attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair, State Attorney Edna Arbel, ministry Director-General Nili Arad and ministry staffers.

Arbel said she was sure Rubinstein would "rebuild the fallen Tabernacle of David," and would restore the prestige of the State Attorney's Office and the office of the attorney-general.

Rubinstein, in his address to the gathering, called on the country to find "the golden mean" that could unite its diverse sectors, adding he hoped he could inject substance into the country's Jewish and democratic principles.

He quoted from both Jewish sources and the Koran on the importance of the judicial system.

He added he was sorry his late parents could not be present, quipping, "My father would have enjoyed hearing all the praise, and my mother would have believed it."

Attorney Roni Bar-On, who was attorney-general for two days last month before resigning after the public outcry that greeted his appointment, offered his best wishes to Rubinstein in an interview on Army Radio.

"I am sure he will fulfill his tasks intelligently, to the benefit of the whole judicial system, which is dear to me and to us all," he said. (Tum)

Netanyahu: We must keep edge

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON — Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu will not protest the possible sale of 100 F-16 fighter planes to Saudi Arabia when he meets with President Bill Clinton at the White House today.

However, he will seek reassurances that Israel's qualitative edge will be preserved, Israeli officials said here yesterday.

The two leaders will also discuss data, uncovered by Israel and recently relayed to the US, dealing with Russian cooperation in Iran's efforts to build a longer-range Scud-type missile.

But the primary focus of their talks is expected to be the Palestinian and Syrian tracks in the peace process.

A senior US official said the administration is "certainly interested in hearing [Netanyahu's] thoughts, to the extent he's willing to share them, [on] where he wants to take the process."

"It's very important. It's a chance to review the thinking on the next steps, both in regard to implementing the Palestinian track and renewing the Syrian track," he said.

Speaking in Amsterdam en route to the US yesterday, Netanyahu said it was up to Syria to decide if it wants to pursue peace.

"Syria has to make a decision. Does it want peace. If it wants peace it can come to the peace table very quickly. If it doesn't want peace it will find ways to obstruct the resumption of the talks," he told reporters at Amsterdam airport.

Netanyahu held brief talks in Amsterdam with Dutch Prime Minister Wim Kok and said he would return to the Netherlands on April 10 for more extensive talks.

Netanyahu's visit to Washington kicks off a month-long period during which some of the region's key players are arriving. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat is due here later in the month and Jordan's King Hussein and Egypt's Hosni Mubarak are due here next month.

Taken together, the US official said, the four meetings are important because "they come following a very intense period — the Hebron understanding that launched a new chapter of the peace process following a problematic period. This is how we build on Hebron to see where the peace process goes."

Netanyahu's visit opens at the Blair House official guest residence with his first meeting with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

He is then scheduled to meet with the chairman and ranking Democrat on the House International Relations Committee, Benjamin Gilman and Lee Hamilton, and afterward with Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Jesse Helms.

Later in the day Netanyahu is to meet with Vice President Al Gore. Then he goes to the Pentagon for a meeting with Defense Secretary William Cohen.

Meanwhile, members of Congress have this week attacked Mubarak and Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa for what they contend is Cairo's lack of helpfulness in advancing peace in the region.

At a hearing yesterday, Albright was twice told by members of the House foreign operations subcommittee that Egypt is playing a negative role.

Sidney Yates of Illinois, the ranking minority member of the panel, said he is "a little disappointed" with how Egypt has "conducted itself" in the peace process and in general since Netanyahu came to power.

Albright responded by stating that the US method of conveying its views to Cairo is to "spend time" reminding Egypt of its trailblazing role in Middle East peacemaking, "and I think the message then becomes clear as to what we think at the moment."

On Tuesday, during another hearing with Albright, House International Relations Committee member Tom Lantos issued a veiled threat to Cairo that its foreign aid package could be endangered.

"I think it's important for our Egyptian friends to understand that when we deal with foreign aid appropriations, we will reward those like Jordan who effectively support peace in the region, and we will be less generous vis-a-vis those who, by their actions, have been less than helpful," Lantos said.

U2 includes Israel in upcoming tour

By HELEN KAYE and DAVID BRINN

U2, the rock and roll champions of human rights and political correctness and one of the world's biggest attractions, will be making its first visit to Israel on September 29.

U2's sole concert at Tel Aviv's Hayarkon Park is part of the "Popmart" tour to promote its upcoming album *Pop*, due to be released on March 3. The 62-city tour of the US, Canada and Europe is to begin in Las Vegas on April 25.

Speaking live on satellite TV from New York, U2 guitarist The Edge said, "We're a multiple outlet outfit. I think we have something for everybody."

The show's 18 numbers will include old and new songs, including those from *Pop*, the group's eleventh album. "Discotheque," the recently released single from the album, is already No. 1 on UK charts. U2 has sold 70 million records worldwide since 1980.

The group is bringing 200 people and 12,000 tons of equipment, including a four-meter-wide illuminated stuffed olive and the world's largest TV screen, measuring 50 by 17 meters.

Long-removed to have avoided Israel due to perceived human-rights abuses, the Irish band has gone the way of fellow card-carrying liberals Peter Gabriel and Sting in giving Israel the post-Oslo seal of approval.

The quartet, consisting of the charismatic Bono, inventive guitarist The Edge, bassist Adam Clayton and drummer Larry Mullen, has been together since the late 1970s.

Together with R.E.M., they were one of the most successful bands to emerge from the ashes of the punk revolution. And just as importantly, they were an influ-



Bono

Report: PM ignores PA ploys in capital

By LIAT COLLINS

Despite Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's claim that he is demanding the closure of Palestinian Authority operations and institutions in east Jerusalem in accordance with the Oslo Accords, he has instructed members of his staff to play down a list of 20 such violations, according to a report on Israel Radio's English-language news yesterday.

A list of the violations drawn up by the police and security establishment was presented to the Prime Minister's Office at the beginning of the week. It was published in *Ha'aretz*, and broadcast on the radio station yesterday. (See box.)

Although the Prime Minister's Office has released material on PA violations in the past — including a review after the Hebron deal was signed on the PLO's failure to amend its covenant — when presented with this list, the prime minister reportedly asked that it not be published.

According to the radio report, quoting unnamed sources, the reason is that the premier is not sure he will be able to fight all the activities and several cases might not stand up in the High Court of Justice.

Opposition to Netanyahu's stand on Jerusalem has been mounting among MKs from the coalition parties, reaching a new

- Palestinian Authority offices that are operating in Jerusalem in violation of the Oslo Accords include:
- Palestinian Ministry of Religious Affairs, operating at the entrance to the Temple Mount.
 - Office of the Mufti of Jerusalem and the Holy Land, appointed by the PA
 - The activities of the Palestinian security forces
 - Orient House
 - Palestinian Education Ministry
 - Palestinian Youth and Sport Ministry
 - Palestinian Mapping and Geography Ministry.
 - The office of PA council member of Hatam Abdel Khader
 - The Palestinian Housing Council;
 - The Jerusalem Committee of the elected Palestinian Council which reportedly arranges anti-
- Israel demonstrations on Jerusalem-related issues.
- The Palestinian Small Business project, reportedly operating within the framework of the Palestinian Ministry of Supplies.
 - The National Islamic Committee to Confront the Settlements
 - The Palestinian Institute for the Wounded
 - The Palestinian Energy Center
 - WAFPA, Palestinian news agency
 - Al-Quds University, said to follow PA dictates
 - In addition, the PA is said to have been involved in:
 - An attempted takeover of Mokassed Hospital
 - Intervention at Augusta Victoria Hospital
 - Attempts to take control of the Supreme Islamic Council at the entrance to the Temple Mount
 - The PA has also appointed a Jerusalem District governor.

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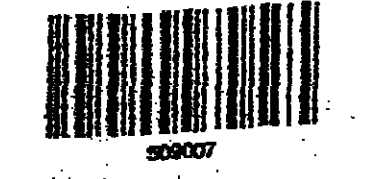
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NEWS

in brief

Soldier dies of injuries from traffic accident

Lt. Einat Rahman, of Petah Tikva, died early yesterday morning at Beersheba's Soroka Hospital of wounds sustained in a traffic accident near Yeroham on Tuesday. Sgt. Yifat Naor, of Tel Aviv, Cpl. Rinat Farhi, of Rishon LeZion, and another soldier died on Tuesday.

Mother charged with murdering her newborn

Luna Tzioni, 32, of Hadera, was charged in Haifa District Court yesterday with murdering her newborn child. According to the charge sheet, Tzioni threw the baby out the window of her parents' second-story apartment. Neighbors found the baby in the yard and took her to Hillel Yoffe Hospital, where she died.

Woman dies in fall from porch

A 76-year-old Rishon LeZion woman died yesterday morning after falling from a second-story porch while hanging laundry. The woman was brought to Assaf Harofeh Hospital in critical condition, and died in the afternoon. Police said the incident was apparently an accident.

Boy, 17, held for raping girl

A 17-year-old boy was arrested yesterday on suspicion of raping a friend who studies at a boarding school in Kfar Sava. The girl said the boy raped her two days earlier when he came to visit her at her dormitory. She said she asked him to leave, and escorted him outside. He then dragged her into a field and raped her, she said.

No compensation for driver of stolen car

The Tel Aviv District Court ruled yesterday that a man who was driving a stolen car when he crashed and suffered serious injuries is not eligible for the compensation given to traffic accident victims. Shaul Biton, of Herzliya, sued the Kranit company for compensation for the May 1989 accident, in which the car overturned. Judge Nissim Yeshaya noted that the car had been stolen a number of days earlier and the driver knew this. Biton is therefore not eligible for compensation, he said.

Hebron prepares to reopen retail market

By HERB KENON

A retail market in front of Hebron's Avraham Avinu compound, closed since the 1994 Machpela Cave massacre, was being readied for reopening yesterday, as Palestinian and Israeli representatives unlocked and entered some of the shops there to assess what repairs are needed.

Under the Hebron redeployment agreement, this market, which used to be a wholesale market, will be opened instead — because of security considerations — as a retail market. One IDF official said the reason for the change is obvious: to keep large trucks from loading and unloading at the site — something that would pose a security risk for the Jewish compound.

Settlement leaders have fought a long battle to get the market moved from the site, saying that it will bring thousands of Palestinians literally to the doorstep of the settlement's largest Jewish compound, posing a massive security problem.

The settlement has for months had a large sign above the market reading that the market is built on land stolen from the Jews after the 1929 massacre. Palestinian merchants praised

the imminent opening of the market.

"This is a good achievement. Life starts to return to normal," vegetable seller Abdel Hadi Nasreddine told AP.

Meanwhile, the IDF yesterday demolished five illegally built homes in the Hebron area. Civil administration spokesman Peter Lerner said the homes were built within the last year without the proper licenses. The homes were built along the newly constructed bypass roads, which were built so that traffic would not go through developed Palestinian areas.

Lerner said the demolitions were part of an ongoing policy by the civil administration to prevent illegal building in Area C, the areas in the territories still under Israeli control.

The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judea, Samaria and Gaza claim that the Palestinians are building hundreds of illegal units in Area C in an attempt to create facts on the ground before further redeployment talks begin. The goal behind this illegal building, according to council officials, is to create land links between the various Palestinian autonomous areas, thereby setting the groundwork for a Palestinian state.

Mordechai: No Lebanon pullout

By LIAT COLLINS

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai told the Knesset plenum yesterday that there is "no alternative to IDF presence in the south Lebanon security zone."

He was answering a motion presented by Likud and coalition faction chairman Michael Eitan on a recent *Newsweek* report that South Lebanese Army soldiers are collaborating with Hizbullah.

He completely rejected a unilateral IDF withdrawal from Lebanon, saying the result would be terror attacks in northern Israel, like the attacks in Misgav Am, Avivim and Nahariya that took place before the security zone was established. Mordechai said the number of individual SLA soldiers helping Hizbullah had dropped.

During the debate, Mordechai and Eitan exchanged sharp words about a possible

IDF withdrawal.

"We cannot as citizens hear that the brilliant, large and sophisticated IDF says there's no other way. We have no other country, but there must be many other ways," Eitan said.

"The IDF and security leadership is of course busy day and night in trying to find solutions," Mordechai said. "It does not need incitement and insults to make it think seriously. We've sought every way."

"There's not one leader with whom I haven't raised the subject of finding a solution for Lebanon. But as of today, the same solutions are not to be found. And what is necessary today is to strengthen the spirit of IDF soldiers, first and foremost from within this House and government."

Criticizing the timing of the public discussion by some MKs on a possible IDF pullout from Lebanon, Mordechai said: "It's

unacceptable that there are those who make cynical use of a tragic accident," referring to last week's helicopter collision.

"They hear in Beirut what's being said here," Mordechai said, adding: "They don't just want to get us out of Lebanon but out of Jerusalem and it's better we fight them there even if the price is heavy."

The minister said talk of a withdrawal hurt the serving soldiers, the bereaved families and northern residents. He also noted that the south Lebanese residents would pay a heavy price and turn against Israel if it were to pull back.

The so-called Kochav Yair circle led by MK Gideon Ezra (Likud), which is examining a new approach to the IDF presence in south Lebanon, met in the Knesset yesterday.

Eitan announced he was not a member of the group and had only attended the first

meeting to hear the views presented.

Former members of the security establishment who also attended the Saturday night meeting at Ezra's Kochav Yair home — retired major-general Danny Rothschild, former General Security Service head Ya'acov Perry and former senior GSS staffer Yossi Ginosar — were also noticeably absent. Ginosar said earlier this week that they had been invited to that meeting only to give their professional opinions.

At the outset of yesterday's meeting Ezra stressed that although the question of unilateral withdrawal from the security zone had been raised at Saturday night's meeting, this was not the aim of the group. He said the circle aimed at finding "imaginative new solutions" to the Lebanon problem, agreeing that a unilateral withdrawal would result in terrorists crossing the border.

Lebanon complains about IAF raids

By DAVID RUDGE

The Lebanese government submitted a protest to the Grapes of Wrath monitoring group yesterday over the IAF strikes deep into Lebanon the previous day.

Syria also criticized the raids by IAF warplanes and helicopter gunships against a Hizbullah-run radio station, the Voice of the Oppressed, and bases of Ahmed Jibril's PFLP-General Command

in the Bekaa Valley, and Nu'emeih, just south of Beirut.

Hizbullah's Manar television station reported that a shepherd wounded in the attack had died of his wounds, although there was no confirmation of this from any other source. At least three members of Jibril's group, including a senior commander, were also wounded.

The extremist Shi'ite organization said the raids were a clear violation of the understandings

reached at the end of Operation Grapes of Wrath last April.

Mohammed Yaghi, a senior Hizbullah official in the Bekaa region, said the organization would increase its attacks. "The Israelis should know that we have the ability and that our struggle will continue until we kick them out of our land," Yaghi was quoted as saying in the Lebanese media.

Syria reacted bitterly to the attacks as well as to comments made by

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu when he visited troops at an IDF position on the northern border.

Radio Damascus called on Syrian army troops to be on full alert in case Israeli leaders were planning an "offensive adventure." State-run newspapers said Netanyahu had hardened his position on the eve of his visit to Washington, with the bombing and shelling of civilians in Lebanon.

Lebanese radio stations report-

ed extensive low-level flights by IAF warplanes over many parts of Lebanon yesterday. The only incident on the ground, however, was a long-range mortar attack on a South Lebanese Army position in the western sector of the security zone yesterday morning.

There were no casualties or damage as a result of the attack, for which the Amal Shi'ite movement claimed responsibility. IDF gunners returned fire.

Arafat lauds freed women

Hundreds of friends and family members mobbed freed Palestinian women prisoners as they arrived early yesterday morning in Ramallah, where Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat greeted them.

"I'm proud to be on free Palestinian land!" shouted Abeer Wheidy, 27, as she climbed off a bus and was surrounded by ecstatic relatives who had been waiting since noon Tuesday for her release. Wheidy, convicted of commanding the Fatah cell that murdered Ofra resident Zvi Klein in 1991, had served 4 1/2 years of a life term.

Arafat called the releases a good sign for peace with Israel. "No doubt this will help the relationship between the two peoples," he said.

"It was difficult, but in the end they were released and that's what counts," said Col. Jibril Rajoub, head of preventative security in the West Bank.

Earlier Tuesday, Palestinian women in traditional village cos-



Murderer Abeer Wheidy tells reporters in Ramallah yesterday that "the struggle will go on."

(Reuters)

times danced in a jubilant circle after the first prisoner — Lamia Marouf — was released.

Marouf, 31, who served 10 years of a life term for her involvement in the 1984 kidnapping and murder of

soldier David Manos, was deported to Brazil, where she has dual citizenship and her daughter lives. Her

husband, who was also involved in the murder, remains imprisoned here. (AP)

Prince Hassan expresses hope for agreement on Jerusalem

By ELDAD BECK

PARIS — Since Israel and the Palestinian Authority came to an agreement on Hebron, there is hope they can do the same regarding Jerusalem, Jordanian Crown Prince Hassan said yesterday in Paris.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu demonstrated his pragmatism by signing the Hebron agreement and releasing the Palestinian women prisoners, Hassan said. These acts, which Hassan said show Netanyahu's

respect for the agreements signed by the previous government, combined with the Berlin-Eitan plan, create a new, hopeful political context in the Middle East.

Hassan, on an official visit to France at the invitation of French Prime Minister Alain Juppe, met with President Jacques Chirac yesterday. During his discussions with the French leaders, Hassan stressed that the Hebron accord restored the essential framework for the peace process.

"The legitimacy of the interim

autonomy accords has been acknowledged. Let us hope and pray that Hebron becomes the beacon guiding the future collaboration so that progress toward our ultimate goal will be assured," Prince Hassan said at a dinner Juppe hosted for him.

However, he emphasized peace talks with Syria and Lebanon must be renewed as soon as possible.

"We cannot speak about advancing peace while there is a stalemate in the talks with Syria and Lebanon," Hassan said.

US labor activist Benjamin Gebiner dies

Benjamin Gebiner, the long-time general secretary of the Workers Circle and the animated radio commentator who devoted his life in America to Jewish and labor causes, died in New York on Friday. He was 98.

Gebiner, who arrived in New York from Poland in 1921, was an administrator, teacher, lawyer, professor and journalist. He was contributor to the Yiddish newspaper *The Forward*, and from 1950 to 1972 provided daily commentary on the news for the paper's radio station, WEVD.

Gebiner's friends included David Ben-Gurion and Golda Meir.

CAPITAL

Continued from Page 1

elections Binyamin Netanyahu promised that the government under his leadership would close PLO institutions in Jerusalem. After eight months, the PLO establishments in Jerusalem are flourishing and PLO security service men are roaming freely in Jerusalem.

The name he gave the motion is a play on the Likud's election slogan saying Shimon Peres would divide Jerusalem. Motions with the same title also were filed by Labor MKs Moshe Shahal and Micha Goldman. Shahal's motion mentions both the PA activities and the government's delay in starting the Har Homa housing project; Goldman's concentrates just on the Har Homa issue.

Labor faction chairman Ra'anan Cohen said the prime minister's refusal to allow the Har Homa project "hinted at his intention to negotiate in Jerusalem."

He belittled the group of coalition MKs from the Land of Israel Front who are rebelling against party lines until the construction work in Jerusalem gets underway, and said they are "just pretending to be threatening."

Cohen called on them, however,

to support his bill calling for a special Knesset majority to approve any proposed change in Jerusalem's status.

The Third Way also discussed the Jerusalem issue in its faction meeting yesterday and criticized the prime minister over his handling of construction in the capital.

Party leader and Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani told reporters, however, his faction would not consider leaving the government as "we can work better from within. The faction decided it has commenced the struggle [for Jerusalem]."

Third Way MK Alex Lubotsky used much stronger language. "If Netanyahu will not build in Jerusalem, then it might mean it is worth giving [Labor leader candidate] Ehud Barak a chance," he said.

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Kirov Ballet to dance here
The world-renowned Kirov Ballet, its top stars and orchestra will open the 1997 Israel Festival on May 28 with a glittering production of 'Swan Lake' at Jerusalem's Sultan's Pool, which is being reconstructed for the event. The company then will move to the Roman theater in Caesarea for three more performances of 'Don Quixote.' The stellar lineup includes Julia Makhalina, who danced here in 1994, and Farukh Ruzimatov, who danced at the Gala of the Stars at the Israel Festival last year. (Star: Helen Kaye)

Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.

Albania police stop protests as criticism rises

TIRANA (Reuters) - Albanian riot police swamped the center of Tirana yesterday to prevent the opposition from staging anti-government protests amid increasing international criticism of the leadership's attempts to contain the crisis.

Truckloads of police descended on the headquarters of the Forum for Democracy opposition alliance and prevented several prominent politicians from leaving the building.

Bystanders on street corners, mainly elderly women, shouted at policemen: "We will turn this into a Vlore" — a reference to the southern port where three people have died this week in fierce clashes between protesters and police.

"This is intolerable. All the leaders of the opposition were prevented from taking part on the orders of the interior ministry," said Skender Gjinushi, leader of the Social Democratic Party.

The Forum for Democracy, which groups 10 political parties, had scheduled a mid-day protest at Tirana's main stadium to demand the government's resignation, but the interior ministry banned the gathering.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) said it was deeply worried about the growing violence in Albania, warning that the potential

for a serious crisis was at hand. Europe's top security body called on all sides in the Balkan state to respect the rule of law.

The British government said it was appalled by the violence in Albania, adding it was "deeply concerned about reports of arrests and intimidation of opposition leaders."

Opposition politicians said violence was inevitable if the right-wing government of President Sali Berisha did not back down and allow peaceful protests by investors who blame authorities for the collapse of pyramid investment schemes.

The crisis has left hundreds of thousands of savers in Europe's poorest nation without a penny, sparking some of the worst popular unrest since Albania's hardline Stalinist regime was toppled in 1991.

Prime Minister Aleksander Meksi vowed to crack down on the protests, which he says are organized by leftist extremists.

"The Democratic Party has organized to respond with our forces, not only the police," he said. "We are ready." About 5,000 people massed in the center of Vlore. The protests in the port town have been peaceful since Monday, when protesters enraged by the failure of a local investment scheme fought pitched battles with police.

North Korea accuses South of kidnapping top official

Post news agencies

TOKYO - The North Korean Foreign Ministry said yesterday one of the country's top officials, reported earlier to have defected to South Korea, must have been kidnapped.

The South Korean government had said that Hwang Jang-yop, a senior aide to the North's leader King Jong-il, had sought asylum at its embassy in the Chinese capital, Beijing, along with his assistant Kim Dok-hong.

A Pyongyang Foreign Ministry spokesman told the North's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA): "The South Korean authorities are spreading the rumor

that Hwang Jang-yop, secretary of the central committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, asked for "asylum" at their "embassy" in Beijing today on his way back from Tokyo. This is inconceivable and impossible.

"If it is true that Hwang Jang-yop is in the South Korean 'embassy' in Beijing, it is obvious that he has been kidnapped by the enemy. We are seeking information from the Chinese side through relevant channels," KCNA quoted him as saying. "If it is brought to light that the South Korean authorities kidnapped him and describe him as seeking 'asylum,' we will regard it as a serious incident without precedent and take due countermeasures. We expect that the

Chinese side will take appropriate measures in this regard," the spokesman added.

Hwang, 73, is one of the chief architects of North Korean communism, and would be the highest ranking Pyongyang official ever to seek asylum in the South.

He is credited with playing a leading role in shaping the policy of *juche*, a brand of fanatic self-reliance providing the ideological underpinning for the world's last Stalinist state.

He is believed to be a cousin of the nation's late leader, Kim Il Sung. He leaves a wife, two sons and a daughter behind in North Korea, officials in Seoul said.

The defection by Hwang came as North Korea was preparing to celebrate its biggest

holiday, the 55th birthday of its de facto leader, who rose to power upon the death of his father almost three years ago.

The weekend celebrations this year had already been overshadowed by the nation's worsening economic plight, aggravated by two successive years of devastating floods that have plunged North Korea toward famine.

For the third time in a year, the UN World Food Program issued an appeal this week for 100,000 metric tons of emergency food aid worth \$41 million for the impoverished country.

South Korean Ambassador Chung Jong-wook said Hwang defected at around 10 a.m. with an aide in his 50s.

Ecuador picks new president

QUITO (AP) - Congress chose its own leader as Ecuador's interim president, ending a governing crisis that has threatened this small Andean nation's political stability since the ouster of its elected president last week.

Fabian Alarcon — sworn in as the country's third president in a week — faces a huge budget deficit, inflation that could hit 50 percent this year and a public up in arms over recent austerity measures.

The 49-year-old Alarcon, the leader of Congress, replaces Rosalia Arteaga, the former vice-president who took over after lawmakers sacked President Abdala Bucaram for mental incapacity.

Fellow lawmakers voted 57-2 yesterday to elect Alarcon in a deal engineered by the powerful armed forces.

"The entire country is breathing easier because we have put this crisis behind us," said armed forces chief Gen. Paco Moncayo.



Forging toward independence

Chechnya's new President Aslan Maskhadov raises his fist at his inauguration ceremony in Grozny yesterday. Elected last month, Maskhadov has promised to fight for full independence from Russia. (Reuters)

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Monday March 17
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Tour guide: Israel Shaleim

Tuesday March 25
IRISES ARE BLOOMING IN GILBOA
Every year in March it happens. Irises cover Mt. Gilboa. They are the largest, most beautiful and colorful, and some are yellow. We'll visit Nahal Toot on the trail of Lupinus, the "Cyclamen Hill" of Gilad and Givat Hamoreh. Lunch at Kibbutz Tirat Zvi.
NIS 185 (including lunch)
Tour guide: Hagar Leshner

Thursday April 3
ACRE - THE CRUSADER CITY
In July 1099, after they had captured Jerusalem, the Crusaders realized they needed a port with a major harbor. So they turned this small city into an important Crusader stronghold. The markets filled with goods, cloth, jewels and precious stones, for the troops to take home as souvenirs. We'll visit the Hospitaliers Quarter and view the new discoveries, the Genoa Quarter - little Italy in the Holy Land, the Templars Quarter, the Turkish Baths and more.
NIS 175
Tour guide: Danny Syon

Thursday April 24
IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE SANHEDRIN
The Bar-Kochba Revolt failed. 600,000 Jews died. Jerusalem was destroyed. Jews were sold as slaves, and Tora study came to an end. But a new center arose in the Galilee, and the towns of Zippori and Tiberias became famous. We'll visit them, as well as Beit Shearim, the burial place of Rabbi Yehuda Hanasi and his family.
NIS 215 (including lunch)
Tour guide: Danny Weils

The tour price includes transportation from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv and return, entrance to all sites, background lectures and on-the-spot explanations. Lunch as indicated. 10% off when you book all five tours. Pick-up and drop-off along the route when possible and arranged beforehand.

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Thousands rally against Milosevic

By JOVANA GEC

BELGRADE (AP) - Striking teachers and independent trade union leaders joined 20,000 students who hit the streets yesterday as opponents of President Slobodan Milosevic kept up the protests that yielded their first triumph over his authoritarian rule.

On Tuesday, after three months of non-stop demonstrations, Serbia's parliament acted on Milosevic's instructions and passed a law that finally conceded local election victories won by the opposition last November.

By midday yesterday, some of the tens of thousands of teachers on strike in 1,800 schools across Serbia had surrounded the parliament building in downtown Belgrade to press their demands for overdue pay and higher wages.

Some 20,000 students who want their pro-Milosevic university rector ousted went on their 82nd daily protest march, while independent union leaders added to the street carnival by setting up a soup kitchen aimed at feeding the hungry and rallying Serbia's disorganized workers.

The main opposition coalition, Zajedno (Together), called supporters to an evening event that was to feature launching an unmanned red boat into the Danube river to symbolize the desired departure of Milosevic's neo-Communists from Belgrade.

Bowing to pressure from home and abroad, the parliament controlled by Milosevic reinstated opposition election victories in the capital Belgrade and 13 other major towns.

Milosevic apparently was hoping

to end street protests which began when he annulled those opposition wins and developed into a grassroots revolt against his rule. Coupled with foreign pressure, it created the biggest challenge to his decade in power.

"The mood is extremely tense, people are not satisfied with crumbs," said a top opposition leader, Democratic Party leader Zoran Djindjic.

"I expect protests to continue in all of Serbia until larger changes than the return of stolen votes happen," Djindjic said.

"Serbia is in a mature stage of protests. ... Serbia will not calm down until the government is changed." Establishment of municipal governments in Belgrade, where Djindjic is to become mayor, and other cities now conceded to the opposition is expected in days.

New Rushdie bounty denounced

LONDON (Reuters) - Britain called on Iran yesterday to denounce an increased bounty for the killing of British writer Salman Rushdie.

Campaigners against the death sentence, imposed by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini for Rushdie's alleged blasphemy against Islam, called on Europe to break off all talks with Iran except those aimed at ending the threat on his life.

A leading Iranian politician distanced his government from the offer of a \$2.5 million reward.

Mohammad Javad Larjani said the 15th Khordad (June Fifth) Foundation, which offered the reward, was a charitable body that did not represent the government.

Shuttle set for Hubble tune-up

JOHNSON SPACE CENTER, Texas, (Reuters) - The crew of the shuttle Discovery yesterday flexed the spacecraft's robot arm, checked their spacesuits and said they were ready for a service call on the orbiting Hubble telescope.

Discovery trailed Hubble by 930 km yesterday morning and was closing in on it by about 110 km with each orbit of the earth.

Final preparations were under way to retrieve the telescope early this morning for a four-day refurbishment.

Astronaut Steve Hawley, who used the shuttle's robot arm in 1990 to launch the telescope, put the Canadian-built arm through its paces to be sure it was working.

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Kiss a don't t

Holy Sushi fa

FLAIR

Kiss and don't tell

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Those tell-tale lipstick marks which used to signal to women that their significant others had been indulging in hanky-panky with someone else, are fast becoming a thing of the past. After taking worldwide surveys on men's and women's attitudes to lipstick, cosmetic companies reached the conclusion that one of the more urgent needs on the agenda was the creation of a non-transfer lipstick.

In moments of intimacy, men would rather not have their women wear lipstick at all. They're scared it will leave blotches, and they're not keen on the taste. Women on the other hand, often say that they feel naked without their lipstick. What really bugged men about lipstick was seeing it on cups and glasses. Some had childhood traumas about aunts and grandmothers leaving very visible imprints on their cheeks and then smearing the whole mess with a handkerchief in futile attempts to remove the offending color.

CAVEAT EMPTORI!

Halachic wolf in sheep's clothing

By RUTHIE BLUM

Wearing clothing made of shatez - fabric containing both wool and linen - is prohibited by biblical law. What many consumers may not know is that there is no civil law preventing its import or sale in Israel. When L.B. purchased an imported woolen coat from Hamashbir Lazarchan a few years ago, an afterthought caused her to phone the shop upon arriving home to make sure that the fabric did not also contain linen.



For those concerned about 'shatez' beware: The law does not restrict the sale of wool and linen together.

she felt, would be unfair to other unsuspecting customers. The Religious Affairs Ministry spokesman's office confirmed the biblical prohibition of shatez, but had no idea whether its sale in Israel is allowed. Even Trade Ministry officials were unclear on this subject, prior to investiga-

against shatez: one interpretation includes it as part of a series of directives intended to heighten people's sensitivities to the careful use of the natural world. This theme is expressed in the following tale from the Midrash: When God created Adam he showed him the trees of the Garden of Eden. "Look at my beautiful creations," He said, "All are for you. Be careful not to destroy them because there will be no one after you to repair them." The restriction on the combined use of linen, which is from the ground, and wool, which is from an animal, is seen as a reminder that we must set limits - both in attitude and in practice - on our use of the natural world.

with al... aspect hated lacks, Jews'... Shuttle set or Hubble tune-up... look...

Holy mackerel! Sushi fans in heaven

By DANIEL ROGOV

Whether the tuna caught last week by a Jaffa fisherman on the coast between Haifa and Netanya weighed 360 kilos, as the sushi chef at Tel Aviv's Yakimono restaurant states, or merely 320 kilos as other, possibly jealous, non-owners of the fish claim, is not significant. At either weight, this is one of the biggest fish ever caught in our region. Tuna is a large, strong, spindle-shaped fish related to the mackerel family.

Italians and Spanish. Considerably smaller than American and Japanese varieties, these tuna rarely grow to more than one meter in length and are found in local waters only from May to October. But that does not stop them from being marvelously tasty, especially when fresh, before they have found their way into cans. Fresh tuna costs considerably more than either the frozen or tinned varieties. The fact is, however, that tuna that have been cooked fresh taste infinitely better than their tinned cousins.

per kilo. Considering that the toro on a fish this size weighs more than eight kilos, that makes this an expensive fish indeed. In no form is the toro more appreciated than when served as sashimi, the piece de resistance of Japanese dining. To make this queen of delicacies, pieces of absolutely fresh raw fish are scaled, cleaned and then soaked in water. Afterwards, the fish is filleted, the skin is removed and the meat is sliced with special sharp, thin knives.



There's a lot of tuna sandwich in this beast: One of the biggest fish ever caught here, this white tuna is the new star attraction at a Tel Aviv restaurant.

day, a Japanese diamond merchant residing in Tel Aviv purchased the head (including the eyes which are said to be a special delicacy) and a kilo of the toro for a price in excess of several thousand dollars. Avi Cohen, owner of Yakimono, estimates that the fish will be available for about another week. A single slice of sashimi from the toro will cost NIS 15, the handrolls cost NIS 23. And don't dare ask for a steak from the toro because even if you could afford it, Cohen is simply not willing to serve it.

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Dictatorship in our backyard

For Israelis, the release this week of 30 Palestinian women prisoners, some of whom were guilty of cold-blooded terrorist murder, was painful to watch. The granting of pardons, especially for heinous, nationalistically motivated crimes, always carries with it the danger that the legal system's deterrence of similar acts in the future will be weakened. The families of the victims of terrorist acts were particularly hurt by the release.

Amongst the Palestinians, however, the release was the occasion for expressions of joy. Yasser Arafat and other leading Palestinian Authority personalities arranged an official greeting for the released prisoners. The PA has for a long time made the issue of Palestinians held in Israeli prisons, and their detention conditions, a major public issue. Doing so has, among other things, been a convenient tool for the PA leadership to deflect criticism of the horrid treatment of Palestinians detained in Palestinian jails.

According to human rights groups monitoring the issue, at least 12 Palestinians have been tortured to death or shot while under interrogation since the Palestinian Authority began self-rule in the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank in 1994. These 12 reported cases reflect only a small portion of the prisoners systematically tortured by the Palestinian police.

Palestinian policemen, especially when questioned on the subject by Westerners, sometimes attempt to justify the appalling treatment of detained Palestinians by claiming that their brutal actions are necessary for the sake of effectively fighting terrorism. The lie in these statements is exposed by the fact that many of those who were tortured to death were not even charged with security offenses. For example, the latest victim of such torture, Yussef Baba, who died two weeks ago, was arrested on suspicion of making improper property sales.

The use of torture by the Palestinian police has nothing to do with the fight against terrorism and everything to do with the type of society that the leadership of the PA is imposing on the residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. A dark and brutal dictatorship is developing in Israel's backyard.

The torture of prisoners is only the bluntest expression of this dictatorship, and is meant to instill an atmosphere of fear and self-censorship among the Palestinian population. The institutions which should be fighting for the human rights of the residents of the PA have been reduced to impotence by Arafat. The justice system is not worthy of its name. Summary trials and detentions without trial are common. The Legislative Council is

slowly being rendered irrelevant: the Basic Law it has asked to enact is languishing for lack of signature on Arafat's desk; Arafat has not even bothered to bring the PA's budget before the Council for debate, much less approval; and PA officials summoned to report to Council committees investigating charges of corruption and human rights abuses do not even bother to show up. It is increasingly common to hear Palestinians saying – not for attribution, of course, out of fear of the consequences – that they did not struggle for so long to live under such conditions "worse than during the Israeli occupation."

Some might argue that the experience of the twentieth century has shown that trying to force-feed democracy on non-Western societies often backfires. While there are no Arab countries that can be termed full democracies, many Palestinians make a persuasive case that of all Arab societies the Palestinians have a natural proclivity to democratization because of their long exposure to Israeli democracy and "civil society." What went wrong, according to this point of view, is that control over the Palestinian population has not passed to a naturally home-grown internal leadership, but to a "foreign import from Tunisia" – Yasser Arafat and his deputies. Given the record of Arafat's previous stints as a virtually sovereign ruler in Jordan and Lebanon, conditions in the PA should come as no surprise to anyone.

Israel should be extremely concerned by these developments for a number of reasons. Out of purely humanitarian feelings one should be disturbed at the reports of torture. For another thing, Israel, along with the EU and the US, is financially propping up Arafat's mini-state. Nearly the entire PA budget is underwritten by foreign donors, and it is estimated that almost a quarter of the residents of the Palestinian territories depend on a PA government paycheck for their livelihood. Investment is virtually non-existent. No one has a reasonable guess as to how long this situation can go on.

This leads to serious questions regarding the viability and stability of the Palestinian entity on our borders – an economic basket-case dictatorship is not a desirable neighbor. Eventually the effects of this instability will be felt throughout the region.

Obviously, the issues involved are not simple. The entire Oslo process is centered around Arafat's control of territory; abandoning the Oslo agreements is not realistic at this point and a real alternative to Arafat is not visible. Many Israelis may therefore prefer to ignore the topic, content that someone other than IDF soldiers is dealing with the Palestinian population. But in the long run, Israel ignores these questions at its peril.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LOCAL VOTING DISTRICTS

Sir, – The \$10,000 annual allocation to Knesset members to open offices near their homes could benefit taxpayers immensely.

At present, political parties decide which party back "represents" the people. But if voters can pour out their woes to their local Knesset member in his den, or demonstrate outside his office if he refuses to see them, he will soon realize that his popularity within the party will depend more and more on local public opinion.

At present, most MKs manage to maintain their distance from individual voters by being generally inaccessible in the Knesset, or using their homes as fortresses.

If they cannot do so any more, local voting districts may eventually come into existence in line with the pattern in the US, Britain, etc.

MACABEE DEAN

Ramat Gan.

WESTERN LAND OF ISRAEL

Sir, – I read with great interest your article of January 27, "Highlights of Beilin-Eitan final agreements position paper."

Point C, which reads "No agreement signed by the Israeli government can include a commitment to uproot Jewish settlements in the Western Land of Israel nor will any agreement compromise the rights of the residents to keep their Israeli citizenship and their ties as individuals and as a community with the State of Israel," seems to have been garbled.

I wonder where the "Jewish settlements in the Western Land of Israel" are placed, as I have the feeling that the occupied territories, where such settlements might be, are in the east of Israel and the new islands, not yet created, west of Israel. Or does your staff, which signs this article, put Israel beyond the Jordan?

DR. RICHARD MATHES

Jerusalem.

THOSE WERE THE DAYS

again caught the wastewater in a bucket under the sink. Did one wash the floor or one's socks? You guessed right again, because even that was caught in a bucket under the sink. Tell me, dear soul, for what purpose could that blackened residue of domestic endeavor be useful? Down the loo, stupid...

We were happy. Sharing our food, sometimes even our water. Waiting for the sound of next week's supply. Jerusalem seemed one large

MIDDLESBROUGH AFC

had to be some team to stay up with the giants of those days: Arsenal, Manchester City (not United) Everton, Huddersfield and Sheffield Wednesday.

Middlesbrough's left-back and captain was also England's left-back and captain in 1947-48. The forward line of those days comprised Matthews, Carter, Lawton, Mannion and Finney (with some alternations). "Golden Boy" Mannion was another Middlesbrough star.

THE TELEVISION FEE

Sir, – One of the reasons that I voted for Binyamin Netanyahu in the last election was his promise not to raise taxes.

I have now received a television fee demand which does not mention the 50 percent reduction given to me as a pensioner in 1996. On enquiring about this, I was informed that this reduction for pensioners was canceled in the recent budget bill. Cancellation of benefits is a backhanded way of increasing taxes.

The Knesset members voted themselves an increase in salary of 33 percent last July. Now they are giving themselves another increase of 7 percent and are discussing giving themselves thousands of dollars to set up offices at home. I object to this most strongly.

Mr. Netanyahu has stated that he will donate his 7 percent increase to charity. His donations to charity should come out of his income and not at the expense of the taxpayers, many of whom struggle to make ends meet.

ALEXANDER TUCHMAN

Pardess Hanna.

THOSE WERE THE DAYS

family. The first broadcasts by Israel Radio, music, arts and gossip in Cafe Atara. We were exuberant with the knowledge that we had fought and won a Jewish homeland. Americans studying on their "bill of rights." South Africans on kibbutzim, so many, who came from 29 countries, to help in Israel's struggle for independence basked in the glory of achievement.

STANLEY MEDICKS

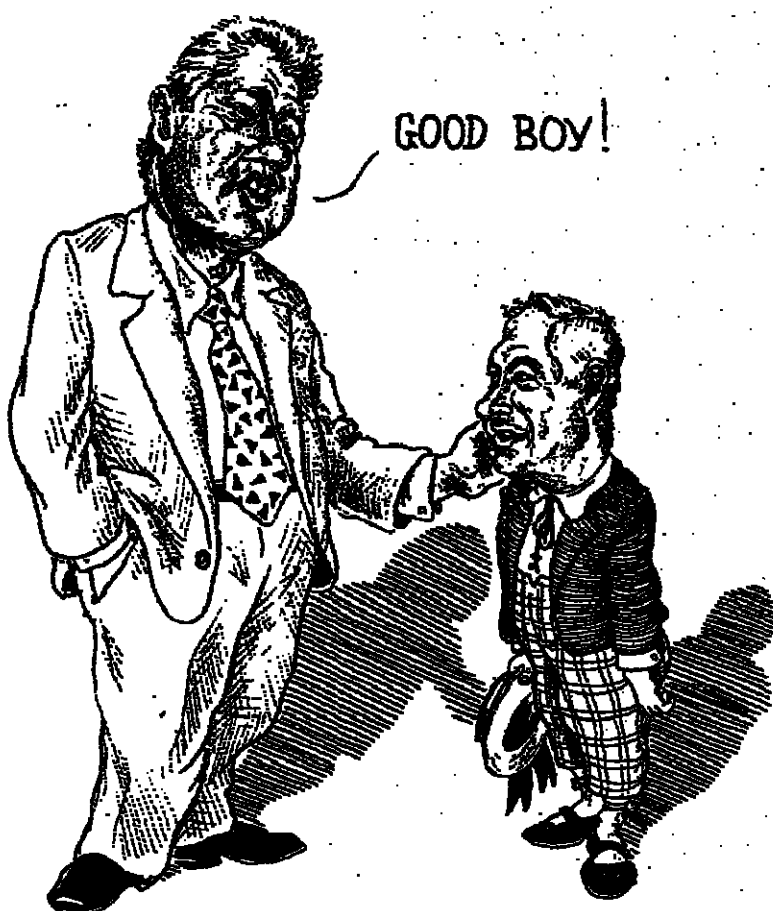
London.

Gary Pallister was getting his first caps for England whilst a Middlesbrough player (and we're talking about current affairs) before going to Manchester United.

Juninho and Nick Barmby appear so regularly in televised games that even a reporter should be able to see that Juninho is the physically lightweight of the two and not as reported.

MICHAEL ALGE

Kiryat Tivon.



The Syria-PLO axis

URI DAN
DENNIS EISENBERG

A thought-provoking revelation is in store for Binyamin Netanyahu during his visit to President Clinton in Washington this week.

He will certainly be made aware of a secret, 11-page congressional report on terrorism and warfare, drawn up under the chairmanship of New Jersey congressman Jim Saxton.

At the heart of the report is a warning about a military pact drawn up between Yasser Arafat and the Syrian government toward the end of last year, threatening hostilities against Israel.

One of the key clauses of the Damascus pact says that Arafat's police, as well as his "terrorist armed elements are to be trained" to ignite "the Israel interior in case of an escalation in the north."

The report describes Arafat's rapid construction of a chain of deep "command centers, ammunition and weapons storage areas, well-fortified to even withstand Israeli bombing and shelling. The PA is accumulating large stockpiles of anti-tank and anti-aircraft weapons, including missiles – all forbidden by the Oslo accords."

Security experts in Israel were already aware of Arafat's importing of vast quantities of cement from Israel into Gaza, ostensibly for constructing housing and hospitals. They will now find disturbing confirmation of their suspicion that what the PLO chief was really up to was building a four-story-deep HQ bunker complex under the ground.

To ensure close cooperation between Arafat and the Syrians, as laid down in the Damascus pact, joint offices have been opened in Beirut and Gaza. But the HQ is in Damascus, already functioning with the blessing of President Assad.

When we contacted Saxton's Washington office, we were told by his chief spokesman: "The situation has become more serious since the report was written."

"The Syrians have begun distributing weapons in the refugee camps [in southern Lebanon]. At the PA's request they have launched intensive training of PLO anti-aircraft units."

The purpose is to train these Palestinian units in the (imminent) use of the growing flow of such heavy weapons, now secretly entering Gaza.

These cadres will then be infiltrated into Gaza, where they will take command of the local Palestinian units [Arafat's "police" and "security forces"].

Even more startling news came from the head of the group that prepared Saxton's report: "Syrian military/intelligence teams will be infiltrated into the PA area, granted Palestinian identity documents, and serve as military attaches for training Palestinian forces."

There is clearly concern in our cabinet about the buildup of Arafat's – let's call a spade a spade – military force.

Despite his new "super-dove" image, David Levy was sufficiently alarmed to announce recently that 30 plane-loads of weapons have been flown from Iran to Damascus. The announcement forced US officials to admit that they have known about this for some time.

European intelligence sources revealed this week that accompanying the Iranian-supplied hardware on the planes were training specialists from Iran.

The weapons, including advanced rockets capable of reaching the Haifa area from Lebanon, were sent on to Hizbullah and other terrorists training in the southern part of the country and in the Bekaa Valley.

There is little doubt that many of these tools of war are fast making their way to Arafat. But the PLO chief has protested that the speed with which his army is being equipped is too slow for him.

Which is why he is pressing the prime minister as hard as he can to complete arrangements for building a seaport in Gaza and an airport in the Dahabiya area – both to function independently of Israeli inspection.

Arafat is also pressing for quick implementation of safe passage for Palestinians and their goods between Gaza and the West Bank. It would not be stretching cynicism too far to understand why this is so important to him. How else can he get the weapons detailed above into the hands of his fighters in Ramallah, Hebron, Bethlehem and other points close to Jerusalem and other Jewish areas?

One heartily hopes that Binyamin Netanyahu, now in Washington, will not repeat the total surrender that characterized the Hebron agreement. But his prevarications over the past few weeks bode ill.

His already shaky approach to withstanding Syria's demands for total withdrawal from the Golan – an area inextricably linked to the security zone in Lebanon – has been further weakened by Internal Security Minister Kahalani's suggestion that an "international force" be allowed to run things up on the Heights.

Has no one told Kahalani that one useless force is already stationed there?

Comments Saxton in his report, entitled *Approaching the New Circle of Arab-Israeli Fighting*: "The Clinton administration continues to apply pressure on Jerusalem to make additional concessions to Mr. Arafat, while ignoring the concurrent developments in the Middle East."

"Instead of pressuring the democratically-elected government of Israel to deviate from the policies it was elected for, the US should concentrate on helping Israel meet the growing threat of war."

Messrs. Netanyahu and Clinton: Are you there?

The writers are authors of *The Mossad: Secrets of the Israel Secret Service and other books on the Middle East*.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



Yes we have no politically-incorrect bananas: a Rotterdam worker unloads the first shipment of people-friendly fruit. The bananas, imported from Ecuador and Ghana, were grown in environmentally-friendly conditions by companies paying fair wages.

Our turn

JEREMY MAISSEL

Reading about Natan Sharansky's recent trip to Russia took me back 20 years, to the height of our struggle to help refuseniks and free prisoners of Zion in what was then the USSR.

As I experienced vicariously the minister's emotional return to the scene of his long incarceration, Lefortovo Prison, that name came back to me like an old adversary.

At that time, we – students, pupils, housewives and others, all fighters for the cause – were disrupting Russian ventures in Britain on a regular basis.

Tacks were thrown onto the stage when the Bolshoi Ballet performed, and Soviet theater troupes (and Aeroflot offices) carried chain-cutters as standard equipment for freeing demonstrators who had fastened themselves to doors or railings to prolong their protest.

Russian security guards were never allowed to sit back and enjoy a show. They were constantly called upon to eject Jewish activists – who would stand up, one by one, every five minutes to shout protests in a precisely-coordinated action designed to interfere with the proceedings and keep the oppression of Soviet Jews constantly in the public mind.

This intense and ongoing activity had its element of grim humor: The protest habit became so ingrained in us that whenever we attended a cultural event of any kind, no matter who the organizers were, we found ourselves having to clamp down heavily on the irresistible desire to jump up at some strategic point in the program and shout "Free Sharansky!" at the tops of our voices.

In 1984, Moscow's mayor cut short his trip to Britain because of the demonstrations he faced every time he set foot outside a building.

Agitators were on hand to bid him farewell at London's Euston Station, and activists made sure they were there to greet him

Prisoners of Zion we must do our bit

when his train rolled into Liverpool.

Historian Martin Gilbert's book on Soviet Jewry, *The Jews of Hope*, came out around that time, to general acclaim. Gilbert's account of these Jews' heroism was extra inspiration.

BEFORE the Knesset is a draft bill, approved in its first reading in the House's previous session, which proposes granting a regulated state pension to former prisoners of Zion and other former activists.

The Treasury and the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry are opposing the bill on budgetary grounds.

Distressing reports have appeared in the press about very many former activists, including Ida Nudel, Vladimir Slepak and Yosef Begun. The reports describe them and former prisoners of Zion from Iraq, Ethiopia, Romania, and North Africa as barely getting by on meager publicly-funded allowances.

Many of these people spent years in prison unable to save any money, and many arrived here too old to begin working.

These heroes of our nation braved imprisonment and other hardships. They spent their lives standing up for what they believed in. Many are too proud to put out their hands for money.

Why should they? The financial burden the proposed pensions represent would be a small item in the state's budget, yet it would make a huge difference where it matters.

The majority of these people are elderly. Of about 2,000 prisoners of Zion from the former USSR, some 600 have died in the past two years. So even on a cold economic basis, the expense will not be a long-term one.

It has been suggested that Yisrael Ba'aliya be left to campaign on these people's behalf. This is shabby.

This issue isn't sectoral. We're talking about the whole nation's champions.

Officialdom, instead of obstructing things, should be leading a campaign to find the resources to pay these pensions.

Enabling them to live out their lives in dignity is surely the smallest sign of gratitude we can show them. Let's act now, before some Russian newspaper runs a headline saying, "Zionists starve Russian prisoners of conscience!"

The writer, a religious educator, is a member of Kibbutz Alumim.

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Haim Shapir
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The writer, a religious educator, is a member of Kibbutz Alumim.

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Jews and Catholics: Not much more to say

Has the dialogue reached an impasse? Haim Shapiro reports

Jews have good reason to be satisfied with the results of their dialogue with the Roman Catholic Church; the Church has undergone a virtual revolution, expunging anti-Jewish elements from its prayers and textbooks, fighting antisemitism, and perhaps above all, extending full recognition to Israel.

And yet it appears that in spite of these achievements, or perhaps because of them, the dialogue between Jews and Catholics seems to be under some strain. Could it be that now that Jews have what they want, they are no longer interested in talking to Catholics? At a public symposium in Jerusalem this week on The Future of Jewish-Catholic Relations in the World and in Israel, Rabbi David Rosen of the Anti-Defamation League spoke of a "creeping paralysis" of ICIC, the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations, a body specifically set up to represent Jews in talks with the Roman Catholic Church.

Rosen admitted that the justification for such talks has often been to fight antisemitism and galvanize the Church into reforming its doctrine.

In simple terms, this can perhaps be best illustrated by an experience of mine while attending an interfaith gathering in Europe a few years ago. One of the participants was a haredi rabbi complete with a black hat, coat and beard, a far cry from the liberal clergy and secular lay people who usually make up most of the Jewish contingent at such gatherings.

When I asked him why he was taking part, he expressed himself in terms of pure self-preservation.

"They are looking for their Jewish roots, and we want them not to kill us," he said.

While the Jewish participants in the dialogue with the Church were not concerned with averting an imminent pogrom, they were anxious to follow up the revolution in the way the Church looked at the Jewish people, which

came in the wake of the Second Vatican Council. Sister Maureen Fritz, president and founder of the Bat Kol Institute in Jerusalem, which is devoted to teaching Christians about Judaism, distributed a questionnaire given to Catholics to determine whether their textbooks were in keeping with the new outlook.

"Is the Hebrew Bible and the Jewish tradition founded upon it compared with the New Testament in such a way that both traditions are seen to be founded on both love and justice, or in a false way that sees the Hebrew Bible as forming a religion of justice, fear and legalism in contrast to a New Testament stress on God's love?" reads one question.

"Do texts treating Church history honestly admit to Christian mistreatment of Jews in various periods of history?" reads another.

"In terms of the doctrine, there is little more that needs to be said," Rosen admitted.

JUST AS important for Jews is the issue of Catholic recognition of Israel. Although Catholic spokesmen were at pains to stress that there was no connection between the "religious" discussions between Jews and Catholics and the "political" issue of diplomatic relations between Israel and the Holy See, for the Jews it was of utmost religious importance.

As long as there were no diplomatic relations, Jews felt, the Church was ignoring what Rosen described as "the inextricable relationship between Jewish and identity and Israel," and worse still, appeared to be adhering to the teaching that the Jews were being punished for deicide.

Cardinal Edward Cassidy, head of the Vatican Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews, while reiterating the distinction between "religious" and "diplomatic," admitted that with the signing of the Fundamental Accord between the Holy See and the State of Israel, a new stage had been reached in



Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau with Vatican representative Cardinal Edward Cassidy.

(Ariel Jerusalem)

Catholic-Jewish relations.

Reviewing the achievements of the past, he noted that these achievements had put into question the need for further high-level meetings and action. What remained, he appeared to say, was action and education on a local level so that religious leaders and their communities would actually know what had been achieved.

At the same time, Cassidy expressed the frustration of the Catholics who see the Orthodox rabbinate as their natural partners in dialogue, while those who engage in such talks on the Jewish side are most often Conservative or Reform rabbis or leaders of Jewish communal organizations.

The question that arises for many of us concerns the fact that often the representatives on one side of the dialogue are clergy and theologians, while those on the other side are often lay representatives of their community organizations. Yet, the questions dealt with in our dialogue have a religious signifi-

cance and... we are meeting as communities of faith," Cassidy said.

The problem was faced by Rosen, himself an Orthodox rabbi, who noted the demise of the Synagogue Council of America, a part of ICIC, following the withdrawal of the Orthodox. Reservations by American Orthodox rabbis toward such participation had come, Rosen said, following an article by the late Rabbi J.B. Soloveichik, spiritual head of Yeshiva University, expressing doubts about theological dialogue, while encouraging cooperation with non-Jews on civil, social and ethical issues.

In fact, Rosen pointed out, Soloveichik himself had participated in many theological meetings. The article, Rosen suggested, was intended to encourage more narrow-minded rabbis by suggesting a series of boundaries with which they could live. In any case, Rosen added, Orthodox rabbis in Israel and Europe make no such distinction. They view close relations between Jews

and Christians as either desirable or undesirable.

As Rosen pointed out, even the highest levels of the official rabbinate in Israel are willing to participate in interfaith gatherings, albeit usually far from Israel and from the criticism of their haredi colleagues. (In fact, Haifa Chief Rabbi She'ar Yashuv Cohen attended the opening session of the symposium and gave his blessing to the gathering.)

However, if the participation of Orthodox Jewish clergy in Israel is problematic, so is that of the higher ranks of the Roman Catholic hierarchy. In a rare appearance at such a gathering, Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah noted that dialogue is a Western reality. Even in this country, it is mostly between Westernized Jews and expatriate Christians.

In order to talk to local Christians, Sabbah said, it was necessary to relate to them as Palestinians.

"Christians are not only a separated religious community. As any Christian in the world, they belong to a people

and nation; any attempt to separate them or eradicate them from their people will only harm them," he said. Noting what he called the Palestinian suffering under the yoke of oppression created by the policies of the government of Israel, Sabbah suggested that just as Western Christians had had to repent for the treatment of Jews, so Jews would have to repent for their treatment of the Palestinians.

Partially echoing Sabbah, Dr. Daniel Rossing, a Jewish educator, called for Jews to appreciate the history, situation and sensitivities of local Christians, just as Christians abroad had had to understand the special sensitivities of the Jewish minority.

"We must recognize that the Christian community wages a daily struggle for survival, relating to Moslems, Jews, Western Christians [and others and that they] face a six-dimensional chess game in which a move in one direction can mean defeat in another." Rossing said.

Jesus and the Jews

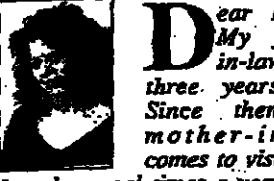
Most Christians are unaware of the many ways in which Jesus and the Jews were connected. This book explores the relationship between Jesus and the Jews, and how it has shaped the Christian faith.

By Cardinal Edward Cassidy

DEAR RUTHIE

It's tough being a son-in-law

By RUTHIE BLUM



Dear Ruthie, My father-in-law died three years ago. Since then, my mother-in-law comes to visit us in Israel several times a year. Each time she comes, she stays for a few weeks and totally disrupts our lives. My wife and I have three children who are always very happy when their grandmother stays with us.

The problem is my wife. She and her mother have a very complicated relationship. They are always at each other's throats but are also very close in a strange way. During these visits I always end up caught in the middle - inevitably being blamed for everything.

My wife gets annoyed with me for not helping out enough; my mother-in-law gets annoyed at me for dominating her daughter's time. And then, after the visit is over, it takes us at least another two weeks to resume normal life together.

I have had it with this roller-coaster, to the point where I've even told my wife that I don't want her mother staying with us any more.

My wife then feels hurt and says that I am inconsiderate. I don't know what to do about this any more.

Seething Son-in-Law Somewhere in Israel

Dear Seething S-I-L,

Everyone, to some extent, regresses to childhood behavior when around their parents. Your wife is no exception. The difference is that most adults do not spend chunks of intense periods of time living in the same house with their parents after a certain age.

By living in your home several times a year for weeks at a time, your mother-in-law is entering your lives and altering the balance you and your wife apparently manage to achieve when she is not there.

Your wife reverts to patterns of family dynamics more relevant to her past than to her present. Her mother, too, plays out her role in the "expected" scenario. You, then, are caught in the cross-fire, and feel victimized in your own house - as a result of your hospitality to your widowed mother-in-law.

Keep in mind that it is easy to slip into unhealthy family dynamics, such that the transformation from "victim" to "participant" often occurs gradually and unconsciously.

Ask yourself whether you have begun to get swept up in an undesirable triangle.

If not, the best way to remain outside of the "sparing ring" is to make it clear to your wife (during the weeks when your lives resume normalcy) that you will be stepping aside when your mother-in-law is around, even if this means helping out around the house less than you normally do.

If, on the other hand, you find yourself acting out a little role of your own when these extended visits take place, you may have to make a concerted effort to break the cycle.

If done successfully, you will no longer need to oust your wife's mother from the premises - as you have threatened - in order to regain your home.

Dear Ruthie,

What is an appropriate (and not too expensive) gift for a colleague who just had a baby? I don't have any children myself, and I'm terrible at selecting gifts of any kind.

Guileless Gift Giver Jerusalem

Dear GGG,

A photo album or picture frame; a gift certificate for a baby shop; bottles hand-painted with the baby's name; a book on child rearing. Mobiles, rattles and teething rings are all good.

Letters should be addressed to: 'Dear Ruthie,' POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For E-mail: editors@jpost.co.il

What was it really like in ancient Rome?

How do you convey to a modern world what life was like in ancient Rome, what it felt like to walk its streets, reside in its palaces and barge in its marketplaces?

A book? A movie? A seminar?

Some of the biggest brains in archeology, architecture, history and the classics have something else in mind: virtual-reality models to be ready in time for the year 2000 when the city celebrates its past two millennia.

At a recent seminar, experts from Italy, the United States and the Vatican tossed around the idea of pooling resources for the expensive, time-consuming project.

All the proposals aim at letting people - be they computer users sitting in their living rooms or tourists kicking up dust in the city's Imperial Forums - experience the world of the ancients as revealed by decades of academic research.

The projects "will allow a common person to walk through the minds of outstanding historians," said Kumar Patel, vice chancellor for research at the University of California, Los Angeles.

An important side benefit for cash-strapped Italy, which has been unable to properly care for its historic monuments, would be a new way for the curious to

learn about the past without creating wear and tear. Virtual-reality models have "an important use for conservation. That's the great value of this," said Francesco Antinucci, of Italy's state-funded CNR research center.

Making the big push for international cooperation on the projects is UCLA, which dubbed its virtual-reality brainchild "Rome Reborn."

The Getty Museum in Malibu, California, commissioned UCLA to create a virtual-reality model of Trajan's Forum, which the university plans to complete by the year's end, in time for the inauguration of the museum's new Brentwood Center.

But the university has its own, more ambitious plans: reconstructing all of Rome within the city's ancient walls.

Or at least a virtual version of that. (AP)

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Or at least a virtual version of that. (AP)

GAME TIME

HISTORY OF CHESS - by Victor Keats, world-renowned expert
The most comprehensive review of chess history is now available in this 3 volume series by Victor Keats. Most of the text derives from translators from Arabic and Hebrew, with accompanying commentaries, illustrations, reproductions from manuscripts, and pictures of chess pieces and early chess problems. This is an invaluable reference source for collectors, players and everyone fascinated by this ancient game.

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BUSINESS

in brief

No spin-off of Hapoalim holdings before sale

Bank Hapoalim will not be forced to spin off its holdings in both Koor and Clal prior to its impending sale, Finance Minister Dan Meridor said yesterday, following a meeting on the matter with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. Meridor added, however, that the recently amended Banking Law compels Hapoalim to shed its holdings in either of the two, and that the government's main concern right now is to sell a controlling share in Israel's largest bank.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Scitex owners deny renewed Gilo bid

Scitex's major shareholders, Discount Investments and International Paper, denied reports that US entrepreneur David Gilo had renewed efforts to purchase Scitex, senior officials at Discount Investments and International Paper said yesterday. On Wednesday, *Ha'arets* reported that Gilo had renewed talks with Scitex's major shareholders in an attempt to take over the Herzliya-based maker of computerized printing equipment.

"No formal offer [by Gilo] was ever made," said Molly Sullivan, spokeswoman for the New York-based International Paper, which holds 13.3% of Scitex's shares and has an agreement with Clal Israel and Discount Investments that prevents the company from selling its shares without mutual consent. Gilo first expressed interest in acquiring Scitex in April 1996, when he attempted a hostile takeover of Scitex.

Scitex is expected to release its much-awaited fourth quarter results today.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Defense producers to exhibit in Australia

The Defense Ministry has organized a pavilion for a defense exhibition in Melbourne, the first such time Israeli contractors will be brought to such an event in Oceania. The ministry's SIBAT, the Foreign Defense Assistance and Defense Export Organization, is bringing leading contractors to the Down Under Exhibition, which focuses on avionics and space and is to be held from February 18-23.

Steve Rodan

Elsint and GE form 50/50 joint venture

Elsint Ltd. of Haifa and GE Medical Systems, a \$4 billion subsidiary of General Electric Company, announced yesterday a 50/50 joint venture to engineer and manufacture nuclear medicine products. Under the terms of the deal, the joint venture company will operate in Haifa, and GEMS and Elsint will separately market and service the jointly developed nuclear medicine products under the brand name of each partner. Nuclear medicine technology, such as X-ray, mammography, magnetic resonance, ultrasound and nuclear medicine imaging devices, are used in the detection of diseases, as well as other abnormalities in veins, tissues and organs.

Jennifer Friedlin

Committee to explore telecom competition

Communications Minister Limor Livnat and Finance Minister Dan Meridor yesterday announced the appointment of an implementation team to recommend and detail ways of opening telecommunications to competition. The team, to be headed by Communications Ministry director-general Daniel Rosenne and include various senior officials from both ministries, will present its report to the ministers by July 1.

The government decided at the beginning of the year to adopt the recommendations of the Wax-Brodet-Leon Committee on increasing competition in the telecommunications sector. The committee members will be entitled to consult with representatives of other relevant ministries, outside experts and vested interests in the telecommunications field, as well as Bezeq union leaders.

Judy Siegel

Fourth quarter investments down 23%

GDP growth slows to 3% from 6% over previous six years

By Jerusalem Post Staff

The gross domestic product's growth rate slowed over the last quarter of 1996 to an annual pace of three percent from a 6%-7% rate over each of the previous six years, and investments in the local economy plunged 23% after rising 31% during the previous quarter, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

Analysts relate the sharp decline in investments to the economy's general slowdown, which some experts and industrialists attribute to the central bank's relatively high interest rates and arguably low exchange rate.

Earlier this week, Finance

Minister Dan Meridor told the Knesset Finance Committee the economy was not facing a recession.

Though it is experiencing a slowdown, "many Western countries would be happy to have our growth rates," he said.

The quarterly survey, which is based on preliminary data, also indicates that the annual growth rate of private consumption expenditures has slowed to 2% during the last three months of last year, after rising 5% during the previous three months.

Per-capita expenditures for the purchase of durable goods - i.e. cars, furniture, household appliances etc. - plunged during the

last quarter of 1996 by 38% in comparison with the previous three months.

Factories' investments in machinery and equipment shrank by 21% on an annualized basis, while their investments in means of transportation sank 51%.

In the real-estate sector, investments in buildings and construction works declined an annualized 10%, while investments in residential housing rose, during the fourth quarter, by an annualized 10%.

Imports of goods and services dwindled over the last quarter by 14.6% from the corresponding period in 1995, after having risen 28.2% during the third quarter last

year. Exports of goods and services declined 0.6% during the fourth quarter, after expanding by 19.4% during the previous quarter.

Meanwhile, the Labor and Welfare Ministry reported that the number of job seekers remained unchanged in January.

During the first month of the year, 136,000 people sought work through the government's employment bureaus, but after seasonal adjustments the real figure is considered to 129,000, much the same as December's, the ministry said.

Israel's 6.5% unemployment rate in among the lowest in the developed world.

Koor, Sheraton set up regional hotel chain

By HAIM SHAPIRO
and Jerusalem Post Staff

Koor and ITT Sheraton signed an agreement in Tel Aviv yesterday to establish Sheraton Israel, a joint company that will manage hotels in Israel, the Palestinian Authority and Jordan.

The agreement - signed by ITT Sheraton Europe President Robert Cotter, Koor Industries President and CEO Benjamin Gaon, and Koor Tourism Enterprises general manager Gil Leidner - provides for a 31 percent share in Sheraton Israel for Sheraton ITT and a 49% share for Koor.

Cotter, who noted that Gaon had already held talks with PA head Yasser Arafat on establishing a tourist infrastructure in the PA, added that both partners in the new company were looking to find Palestinian partners to build hotels in such locations as Gaza and Bethlehem.

It would, he said, be one of the first focal points of the joint venture.

Cotter added that although he was not sure what role the Palestinian partner would take, the company would not go into such a venture without such a partner.

The same, he added, was true for Jordan, where Sheraton Israel is also to operate.

Leidner said that with the implementation of the transaction and completion of the hotels constructed by Koor, the company will operate about 2,100 rooms in the deluxe and recreation classes throughout the country.

According to the agreement, Sheraton Israel is to manage four hotels from the former Paradise chain - in Jerusalem, Tiberias, Eilat and the Dead Sea - under the brand name Four Points Hotels, a Sheraton group of moderately priced hotels.

Sheraton Israel is also to manage the Herod's Hotel in Eilat, which is due to be completed in 1998.

According to the company, when completed, it will be the most luxurious hotel in the Red Sea port.

ITT Sheraton and the owners of the Sheraton Plaza Jerusalem Hotel are negotiating to transfer the management of the hotel to Sheraton Israel.

All the hotels under the management of Sheraton Israel are to become part of the ITT Sheraton network from the beginning of next year.

However, they are to be immediately linked to the ITT Sheraton worldwide reservations network and sales centers around the world.

Meanwhile, ITT Sheraton yesterday rejected Hilton Hotels' \$10.5 billion hostile takeover bid as too low.



Israel, PA ink debt arrangement

Finance Minister Dan Meridor (left) and Palestinian Authority Minister of Planning Nabil Shaath (right) sign a debt-settlement deal yesterday by which Israel will transfer NIS 65 million to the PA in lieu of accumulated tax returns and an additional NIS 40m. for various other debts. The PA, for its part, will pay an estimated NIS 75m. in lieu of unpaid debts to Bezeq, Mekorot, the Electric Corporation and others.

(Text: Itin; Photo: Brian Heidler)

Central bank: Union, Leumi charge highest commissions

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

Bank Leumi and Union Bank are the most expensive for maintaining a current account, while Bank Hapoalim is the cheapest, according to a survey conducted by the Bank of Israel.

A central bank spokesman said yesterday the bank stands behind its survey, despite claims by some of the banks that the data released is inaccurate.

Bank Leumi and Union Bank said the data is not a true comparison of fees.

The central bank published a table comparing the seven largest banks in terms of monthly cost of maintaining a private current account.

The data reveals that there are substantial differences of up to 33 percent in fees for performing the same service.

The table compares monthly fees for a private account in which there are 20 transactions. The chart gives data on wage earners with NIS 3,000 in overdraft credit who use an average 50% of their allocated credit per

month and similar wage earners who use an average of 150% of their allocated credit.

The chart also lists bank fees for wage earners with NIS 7,500 in overdraft credit using an average 50% of their allocated credit and similar wage earners using an average 150% of their allocated credit.

According to the chart, the average monthly cost of maintaining an account at Union Bank is NIS 61.35 for wage earners with NIS 3,000 in overdraft and using an average 50% of their allocated credit.

In comparison, at Bank Leumi the average cost is NIS 44.73, at United Mizrahi Bank NIS 42.60, at First International NIS 42.10, at Mercantile Discount the cost is NIS 42.03, at Bank Discount it is NIS 41.90 and at Bank Hapoalim NIS 39.35.

Union Bank said the results reflect a very narrow category of customers, emphasizing that most of their clients are businessmen and wage earners with much higher monthly incomes.

"Our bank serves a different sector than that examined by the central bank," a Union Bank spokesman said.

"The published data does not reflect the real cost of the bank fees, which is much cheaper."

Bank Leumi said the central

bank's data concerning the prime rate is not accurate, explaining it makes it appear that the average customer pays maximum interest fees of prime plus 6%.

According to Leumi, the majority of customers pay the lower rate, which is only prime plus 3.5%.

Leumi also criticized the Bank of Israel for not taking into consideration the fact that, unlike other banks, it does not charge commission fees on standing orders.

Customers are usually charged the higher rates unless they negotiate with the branch manager, a Bank of Israel spokesman said, adding that Bank Leumi signed a document confirming that the rates used for the comparison are accurate.

"We took the same kind of fees from all of the banks," the spokesman said.

Last year, Bank Leumi decided to freeze commission fees almost immediately after the central bank published a similar comparison chart, which also showed it had expensive fees. In reaction to Leumi, Bank Hapoalim also froze its fees at that time.

Other findings of the chart show that Bank Discount and Mercantile Discount charge the lowest management and information fees for monthly wage earners of up to NIS 10,000.

The cost of management and information services at Bank Leumi for accounts with up to NIS 6,000 in allocated monthly overdraft credit is relatively expensive.

This is due to fixed management fees of NIS 6.9 and NIS 2 in credit allocation fees.

ECI, Belgacom in \$30m. deal

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Belgacom, Belgium's leading telecommunications operator, has selected ECI Telecom Ltd. to be its sole supplier of access-network pair-gain solutions, which expand the capacity of existing telecommunications services, an ECI representative said yesterday.

Under the terms of the agreement, the Petah Tikvah-based company will deliver its access products over the next three years, generating sales that could exceed \$30 million.

"We've opened up a very nice market, and as Belgacom's sole supplier we are in a good position," said Michael Shalit, ECI's vice president of business development, commenting on the sale.

The systems ECI will deliver to Belgacom will be supported by management controls and incorporate a special copper wire line testing feature.

Meanwhile, ECI also announced yesterday that it received a \$6.8m. contract to supply its subscriber systems to Instituto Costarricense de Electricidad, Costa Rica's state body for electricity and telecommunications.

ECI designs digital telecommunications and data transmission systems for telecommunications providers. The company is British Telecom's sole supplier of HDSL equipment, which increases the number of users that can be served through a pair of existing copper-wire telephone lines, and supplies 60% of Deutsche Telekom's high-speed optical transmission equipment, which connects trunk lines between major German cities.

Shalit said ECI is currently focusing on increasing business in the Far East. The company has been developing a distribution network in Southeast Asia and is now "looking forward to reaping the benefits," Shalit said.

Last year, ECI did \$100m. worth of business in the Philippines, and the company is currently working on a \$65m. deal with China's telecommunications operator Ji Tong. Shalit said that Li Lanqing, vice president of the council of the

People's Republic of China, has expressed interest in visiting ECI during an upcoming visit to Israel.

Earlier this week, ECI announced its fourth quarter and annual results. Revenues for the fourth quarter increased 36% to \$166.66m. from \$122.54m. for the same period one year ago.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS					
Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)					
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	Rep.	
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375	3.3250	
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250	1.9819	
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125	5.4888	
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000	0.5872	
Yen (10 million yen)				2.8940	
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)					
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (12.2.97)					
Currency basket	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.5963	3.8544	3.24	3.41	3.3429
German mark	3.3034	3.3887	1.58	1.58	1.9819
French franc	1.9554	1.9872	0.51	0.51	5.4888
Japanese yen (100)	6.4111	5.4884	0.57	0.57	0.5872
Dutch guilder	0.5825	0.5819	2.82	2.78	2.8940
Swiss franc	2.9732	2.7184	1.72	1.81	1.7859
Swedish krona	1.7514	1.7787	2.25	2.37	2.3120
Norwegian krona	2.2932	2.3502	0.43	0.48	0.4488
Denish krona	0.4450	0.4522	0.49	0.52	0.5022
Finnish mark	0.5001	0.5082	0.53	0.54	0.5204
Canadian dollar	0.5159	0.5243	0.85	0.89	0.8748
Australian dollar	2.4348	2.4741	2.39	2.51	2.4938
S. African rand	2.4965	2.5388	2.45	2.58	2.5267
Belgian franc (10)	0.7479	0.7600	0.67	0.76	0.7571
Austrian schilling (10)	0.9829	0.9893	0.93	0.99	0.9808
Italian lira (1000)	2.7933	2.8384	2.74	2.88	2.8172
Jordanian dinar	2.0042	2.0388	1.98	2.07	2.0280
Egyptian pound	4.5910	4.8100	4.59	4.91	4.7324
Irish punt	0.9400	1.0200	0.94	1.02	1.0627
ECU	3.9229	3.8907	—	—	3.8625
Spanish peseta (100)	5.2474	5.3821	5.15	5.41	5.2887
	2.9223	2.9398	2.89	2.40	2.3440
*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.					
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI					

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- Three Months \$70 US Dollars/NIS 245
- Six Months \$130 US Dollars/NIS 456

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Handwritten text in Arabic script: *معلومات إضافية*

ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, AMEX, NASDAQ. Lists various Israeli companies and their share price changes.

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MISHTANIM LEADING 100 TASE ISSUES

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE. Lists the top 100 TASE issues and their share price changes.

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE. Lists various Israeli companies and their share price changes.

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INTERNATIONAL SHARES

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE. Lists international share prices and changes.

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NEW YORK

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TASE ROUNDUP

Shares dropped yesterday, led by chemicals companies and the supermarket operators Superol Ltd. and Blue Square Properties and Investments Ltd.

Chemical companies lead shares lower

Mishtanim 254.81 ▼ 0.91% Maof 262.41 ▼ 1.27%

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE. Lists TASE market data and key representative rates.

Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., which together account for more than 16.5 percent of the Maof index, also declined.

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE. Lists New York market indices.

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

Dollar boosts French shares higher

PARIS (Reuters) - French shares ended higher yesterday, but just below the key 2,600 level, as continued dollar strength supported the market, traders said.

OTHER STOCK MARKET INDEXES

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE. Lists other stock market indices.

DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US)

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE. Lists dollar crossrates.

US COMMODITIES

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE. Lists US commodities.

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE. Lists spot market metals.

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE. Lists New York metal futures.

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WHERE TO GO

Notices in this feature are charged at NIS 28.08 per line, including VAT. Includes information about museums, pharmacies, and general assistance.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES, FIRE FIRST AID, and other emergency services listed.

DUTY HOSPITALS

List of duty hospitals including Jerusalem, Haifa, and other locations.

POLICE

Police contact information and services.

INVESTMENTS

Investment services and contact information.

TELEVISION

Television services and contact information.

England loses World Cup qualifier

LONDON (Reuters) - Italy became the first team ever to beat England at home in a World Cup qualifier when a 19th-minute goal from Gianfranco Zola gave them a 1-0 victory at Wembley Stadium yesterday.

Zola, who plays for London club Chelsea, slammed the ball past England goalkeeper Ian Walker after a long raking pass from Alessandro Costacurta eluded defenders Stuart Pearce and Sol Campbell, allowing Zola the space to control the ball and fire it home at the near post.

The result ended England's 100 percent start in its Group 2 qualifying campaign, leaving the team with nine points from four matches, but Italy has maintained its perfect start with its third straight win.

The match started brightly for England, which had played 28 home qualifiers since the early 1950s without defeat, but Italy gradually took control through Alessandro Costacurta and Demetrio Albertini who dictated much of their play.

England played with plenty of spirit and determination, going close to scoring through Matt Le Tissier, Graeme Le Saux and Paul Ince in the closing stages, but it could do nothing in the end to break down a superbly marshalled Italian defense.

Kings buried in Avalanche of shots

DENVER (AP) - Patrick Roy had 31 saves and Adam Deadmarsh scored his 23rd goal, leading the Colorado Avalanche to a 3-1 win over the undermanned Los Angeles Kings.

Mike Ricci and Valeri Kamensky each scored a goal for Colorado during Tuesday night's game, and Roy limited Los Angeles to only a shorthanded goal in the first period.

The Kings, 2-8-1 since the All-Star break, played without leading scorer Dimitri Khristich, top defenseman Rob Blake and left winger Matt Johnson. Khristich was out with an injury to his right eye while Blake and Johnson were serving suspensions.

Los Angeles goalie Stephane Fiset stopped 51 shots, his most since facing 46 against Chicago on February 14, 1991, while with Quebec.

The Avalanche set a club record with 29 shots on goal in the first period. It was also the most shots ever taken against the Kings in one period.

Islanders 5, Senators 5
Marty McInnis scored with 1:49 left in the third period to lift host

New York to a tie.

McInnis took a pass from Derek King in the right circle and beat goalie Damian Rhodes to the far corner from 15 feet for his 16th goal of the season.

Travis Green scored twice for the Islanders, who are winless in six of their last seven games (1-5-1). Bryan Smolinski and Bryan Berard also scored for New York.

Alexei Yashin scored twice for Ottawa. Daniel Alfredsson, Jason York and Alexandre Daigle also scored for the Senators, unbeaten in four of their last five (3-1-1).

Flames 5, Bruins 1
Trevor Kidd made 31 saves to lead the host Calgary Flames to their third straight win over the Boston Bruins.

Jonas Hoglund, Dave Gagner, and Ronnie Stern each had a goal and an assist for the Flames, whose winning streak is a season-high.

Kidd, making his ninth straight start, was especially sharp in the second period while making 13 saves. He stopped Ray Bourque's slap shot from the top of the face-off circle with a dazzling glove save.



SHEER POWER - England's Alan Shearer bursts past Italy's Fabio Cannavaro during their World Cup qualifying match. (AP)

Friendlier Rodman returns to the court

CHICAGO (AP) - Dennis Rodman ran into a cameraman - again - and responded with a smile and a tap instead of a kick. He also avoided a confrontation with a former head-but victim.

He battled Anthony Mason, grabbed 14 rebounds and helped the Chicago Bulls beat the Charlotte Hornets 103-100 Tuesday night, a victory that was delivered by Michael Jordan's 3-pointer at the buzzer.

As he walked off the court, Jordan hugged Rodman and said, "Welcome back." Rodman's return from an 11-game suspension - imposed by the NBA for kicking a cameraman in Minnesota on January 15 - couldn't have been much better.

"He kept his composure," said Jordan, who scored 43 points in the Bulls' 15th consecutive home victory. "He did just the opposite of what he did last time. He learned his lesson."

With 5:59 to play, Rodman fouled Mason and stumbled out of bounds, where he tripped over cameraman Tommy Skinner of local television station WGN. Rodman smiled, patted Skinner playfully on the chest and apologized into the camera.

"I just said, 'Are you all right? Are you all right? Please tell me you're all right!'" Rodman said. "Are you happy, David Stern?" Stern, the NBA commissioner, gave Rodman the second-longest

suspension in league history for his January kicking of cameraman Eugene Amos - costing Rodman about \$1 million in salary as well as \$200,000 for an out-of-court settlement with Amos.

"I wasn't thinking about any money," Skinner said. "I was just trying to brace myself."

Said Rodman, who often dresses in women's clothes: "It would have been a classic if I kissed him, but he probably would have sued me for slandering all over him."

Midway through the third quarter, Rodman was upset at a non-call by Ted Bernhardt - the referee Rodman head-butted last season. But there was no confrontation this time; Rodman already was walking away when coach Phil Jackson took him out of the game for a rest.

Jordan and Chicago's other star, Scottie Pippen, have been very critical of Rodman because they don't want his antics to keep the

Bulls from repeating as NBA champions.

"If you don't want to stick behind me, don't say nothing about me at all," said Rodman, who is donating his salary from his first 11 games back to charity. "My goal is just to win a championship. I guess if I do that, people are going to love me again. If I do something wrong, people are going to hate me."

Rodman also had harsh words for his father, Philander, who watched the game after having not seen Dennis for three decades.

The elder Rodman was flown to Chicago from the Philippines by a tabloid television show in exchange for exclusive interviews. He sat in the lower section behind the basket, often signing autographs for curious fans.

"My reaction to my dad is he comes to see one of his kids, and only one of his kids has money," said Rodman, supposedly only one of his father's 27 offspring. "That's all he's looking for. He's

looking to claim fame."

Knicks 97, Bullets 92
A new head coach couldn't prevent host Washington from the same old result against New York, whose victory ruined Bernie Bickerstaff's debut.

Patrick Ewing and John Starks scored 18 points each for the Knicks, who swept the four-game season series by beating the host Bullets for the 20th time in 21 games since November 13, 1992.

Heat 104, Pistons 91
Tim Hardaway scored 31 points and the Miami Heat shot 53 percent to win in the first matchup this season between two of the NBA's most improved teams.

Alonzo Mourning added 29 points for the Heat, who during Tuesday night's game became only the third team to score 100 points against Detroit. Miami has topped 100 five times while winning seven in a row, the league's longest current victory streak.

EASTERN CONFERENCE										
Atlantic Division										
W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA					
Philadelphia	30	16	8	68	173	136				
Florida	27	15	13	67	158	126				
N.Y. Rangers	28	22	7	63	187	158				
New Jersey	26	17	9	61	139	128				
Washington	22	27	6	50	144	152				
Tampa Bay	19	27	6	44	140	163				
N.Y. Islanders	17	28	10	44	149	166				
Northeast Division										
Buffalo	29	19	8	66	157	139				
Pittsburgh	30	19	5	65	205	168				
Montreal	21	27	10	53	183	206				
Hartford	21	25	7	49	155	174				
Ottawa	18	24	12	48	151	161				
Boston	20	28	7	47	157	182				

WESTERN CONFERENCE										
Central Division										
W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA					
Dallas	32	20	4	68	172	138				
Detroit	25	18	10	60	163	129				
St. Louis	26	25	6	58	172	177				
Phoenix	24	27	4	52	151	172				
Chicago	21	27	8	50	143	148				
Toronto	21	33	1	43	158	192				
Pacific Division										
Colorado	33	14	8	74	187	129				
Edmonton	27	23	5	59	174	156				
Vancouver	25	28	5	52	178	189				
Calgary	22	28	6	48	149	163				
Anaheim	21	28	6	48	154	170				
San Jose	20	28	6	46	142	171				
Los Angeles	19	31	6	44	148	191				

Maccabi can't afford to underestimate Charleroi

By BRIAN FREEMAN

The path is not easy, but the mission is clear enough.

If Maccabi wins its final two games in the Euro League final pool, the Israelis will finish second in Group E - and thus win home-court advantage in the Final 16 - no matter what other clubs do.

Tonight's matchup with winless Charleroi should be the easy part of the task, and Maccabi could not be blamed for thinking ahead to its showdown with Olympiakos next week at Yad Eliahu.

But common sense - if not history - should warn Maccabi about the dangers of overconfidence. The Belgians, at 0-4, are clearly an inferior club, but at home they have managed to give quite a scare

to several teams - including first-place Stefanel Milan, Cibona Zagreb and Olympiakos (whom they forced into overtime).

Twice this decade, Maccabi has suffered a huge upset by a club that had no business defeating them. In the 1991-92 season, the Israelis strode into Italy only to fall to an 0-7 Phoenicia Caserta, while the previous season the deed was done in England by lowly Kingston.

Even so, it is hard to imagine the Charleroi that lost last month at Yad Eliahu to Maccabi 87-70 (and that score doesn't indicate the true extent of the rout) inflicting much damage.

The Belgians had no apparent game plan other than to haphazardly chuck up three-pointers and hope for the best. Charleroi aver-

ages more than 20 shots a night from behind the arc, even though they connect on only a third of them.

Eric Claymans is the team's main threat from three-point range, averaging 43.1 percent but only 10.8 points a night. Charleroi's high scorer, forward Ron Ellis, scores only 13.0 points a game, while Polish center Adam Wojcik chips in a mere 12.5 points and 4.4 rebounds a contest.

Although Maccabi most likely does not need either the injured Randy White nor Brad Leaf to contribute tonight, it would be nice to see them get into shape to practice for the game with Olympiakos next week.

Even if Maccabi wins tonight, it can only clinch one of the four spots from Group E that advances

to the Final 16 this week if Alba Berlin beats visiting CSKA Moscow.

Assuming Maccabi wins tonight, it can still miss out on the best-of-three Final 16 if it loses to Olympiakos next week while CSKA wins its remaining two games (its last match is at home to Charleroi) and Berlin defeats Stefanel Milan in Italy in its final game.

Tonight's game is scheduled to be broadcast live on Channel 1 starting at 8:45 pm.

Group E			
Stefanel Milan	11	3	24
Maccabi Tel Aviv	8	6	22
Alba Berlin	8	6	22
Olympiakos	8	6	22
CSKA Moscow	7	7	21
Charleroi	0	14	14



Vote getters
Indiana received 44 points in this week's CNN/USA Today college basketball poll, but couldn't make the top 25. (AP)

USA Today/CNN Top 25 college basketball teams			
(Through Sunday's games)			
Rank	Team	Record	Points Last
1	Kansas (24)	23-1	744
2	Wake Forest (11)	19-2	702
3	Minnesota (3)	20-2	686
4	Kentucky (2)	22-3	678
5	Utah	17-3	591
6	Clemson	19-4	554
7	Duke	19-5	550
8	Cincinnati	17-4	526
9	Iowa State	16-4	454
10	Maryland	18-6	453
11	Arizona	15-6	446
12	New Mexico	18-4	390
13	South Carolina	17-5	374
14	Michigan	17-6	350
15	Louisville	18-5	332
16	Colorado	17-6	300
17	North Carolina	15-6	258
18	Villanova	17-6	228
19	Xavier	16-4	151
20	Texas Tech	14-6	143
21	Illinois	17-6	132
22	Stanford	13-6	128
23	Tulane	16-7	100
24	Tulsa	17-6	77
25	UCLA	13-7	66

Belle admits to gambling

CLEVELAND (AP) - Controversial American Major League Baseball star outfielder Albert Belle says he recently lost as much as \$40,000 gambling on pro gridiron and college basketball games, a lawyer who questioned the baseball star said yesterday.

Belle, who joined the Chicago White Sox from the Cleveland Indians last fall, made the statement under oath Tuesday while answering questions for a deposition regarding his confrontation with Halloween pranksters, attorney Richard Little said.

Little said he pursued gambling questions about Belle to attack the player's credibility. In six years with the Indians, Belle was suspended five times and received the largest fine in MLB history - \$50,000 for berating a television reporter at the 1995 World Series.

In New York, MLB spokesman Rich Levin said officials had just heard of the Belle deposition. "There's a rule on the books about betting on baseball," Levin said. "It is the only rule on the books." MLB regulations prohibit a player from betting on Major League Baseball games and have always frowned upon "consorting with known gamblers." A violation could mean suspension for one year or for life if a bet concerns the player's own team.

In 1991, Philadelphia outfielder Lenny Dykstra was placed on probation for one year by then-commissioner Fay Vincent after testifying about taking part in high-stakes poker games.

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Alonzo Mourning added 29 points for the Heat, who during Tuesday night's game became only the third team to score 100 points against Detroit. Miami has topped 100 five times while winning seven in a row, the league's longest current victory streak.

Knicks 97, Bullets 92
A new head coach couldn't prevent host Washington from the same old result against New York, whose victory ruined Bernie Bickerstaff's debut.

Patrick Ewing and John Starks scored 18 points each for the Knicks, who swept the four-game season series by beating the host Bullets for the 20th time in 21 games since November 13, 1992.

Heat 104, Pistons 91
Tim Hardaway scored 31 points and the Miami Heat shot 53 percent to win in the first matchup this season between two of the NBA's most improved teams.

Alonzo Mourning added 29 points for the Heat, who during Tuesday night's game became only the third team to score 100 points against Detroit. Miami has topped 100 five times while winning seven in a row, the league's longest current victory streak.

Little said Belle also testified he made wagers among friends on golf and that he has paid off his gambling debts with money orders.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer said Belle's lawyer, Jose Feliciano, advised his client to not answer Little's questions about the money orders and about whether Belle ever gambled on baseball or placed bets with a book maker.

5 Israelis advance in Eilat tennis satellite

By HEATHER CHAIT

Five local tennis players are through to today's quarter-final rounds of the first leg of the four-week Club Hotel Eilat satellite circuit in Beersheva.

Oren Motevassel, top seed and at No. 205, Israel's second highest ranked player, battled yesterday against qualifier Tobias Hildebrand, from Sweden. Motevassel won 7-5, 2-6, 6-4.

Fourth seed Noam Behr beat Ofer Sela 6-4, 6-3 and is the next seed remaining in the event after Martin Bok from the Netherlands and Nir Welgreen, second and third seeds respectively, were dismissed.

Yoni Edich and Amir Hadad also won their second-round matches yesterday. Edich beat wildcard entry Reed Cordish from the United States 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 and Hadad ousted France's Jean Noel Grinda 6-3, 7-6(7/4).

Lior Daban, another qualifier, beat Jurek Stasiak from Australia 6-4, 3-6, 7-6(9/7) in a prolonged clash.

The other players complementing the Israelis in the quarter-finals are Andres Zingman from Argentina, Andrew Ilie from Australia and Jean Francois Bachelot from France.

Today's matches begin at 11 am at the Israel Tennis Center in Beersheva.

Magnes, Frankel races held today

The 46th Magnes Race, the country's oldest race, and the Frankel Race, will be held today at the Givat Ram campus of the Hebrew University.

Postponed one week due to the helicopter tragedy, the two-kilometer Magnes Race will begin at 15:50 and the 5km Frankel Race will set off at 14:45.

Heather Chait

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CRYE

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WHAT'S ON

CRITIC'S CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Martin Andre leads the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra in Haydn's 83rd symphony and Handel's Music for the Royal Fireworks...



American soprano Susan Roberts sings Handel and Bach.

JAZZ

HELEN KAYE

Chicago-born drummer Paul Wertico plays with Pat Metheny who says of him that "Paul can play any style and still retain his own sound."

DANCE

HELEN KAYE

To celebrate 10 years of cooperation with the Netherlands Dance Theater (NDT), Batseva Dance and Batseva Ensemble present a salute to NDT artistic director, the choreographer Jiri Kylian.

TELEVISION

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Dance lovers are in for a real treat tonight and tomorrow as Channel 8 presents four different dance events. The highlight is Heinz Spoerli's Midsummer Night's Dream...

STUDENT THEATER

HELEN KAYE

Theater of the Absurd and Harold Pinter are synonims. The Tel Aviv University Drama Department presents his The Lover...

TV

CHANNEL 1

6:30 News flash 6:31 News in Arabic 6:45 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV

6:00 Family Ties 8:30 Medicine Demystified 8:00 Arithmetic 9:25 Reading 9:45 Programs for the very young...

CHANNEL 2

15:30 Motormane from Mars 15:50 Booby 16:00 Friends of Shosh 16:25 Northwood 16:45 Eye on TV 16:55 2 to Excel 16:50 A New Evening 17:34 Zap Around the Country...

CHANNEL 3

6:15 Today's Programs 6:30 Sharkey and George 7:00 Breakfast Magazine 8:00 Santa Barbara 10:00 Pablo 11:00 Talking About It...

JORDAN TV

14:00 Holy Koran 14:30 Curiosity Show 15:00 They Came from Outer Space 15:30 NBA Basketball 17:00 News headlines

MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

11:30 Chacun Pour Toi (French, 1993) 13:20 The Eagle (1925) - romantic drama with Rudolph Valentino...

MIDDLE EAST TV

7:00 TV Shop 14:30 The 700 Club 15:00 World News 15:30 Features film: Your Money or Your Wife 16:55 Family Challenge 17:40 Family Matters 18:05 Saved by the Bell...

CABLE

ITV 3 (33)

16:15 Yasin and Esma 17:30 From Day to Day 18:00 Amores 19:00 News in Arabic 19:30 Today - news in Russian 20:00 News 20:45 Teleshop 21:15 Zed (1993) - biographical drama about the beautiful but unstable wife of F. Scott Fitzgerald...

ETV 2 (23)

15:30 All Together Now 16:00 Tales of Life 16:25 Rights and Wrongs 17:30 Wildlife in Russia 18:00 Destinos 18:30 Art Workshop 19:00 World War I - CBS documentary 19:30 Vis a Vis 20:00 A New Evening 20:30 Family Album 21:00 Star Trek: The Next Generation 21:45 Pop Songs 22:00 Seventy Faces 22:30 Reality on the Rocks 23:30 The Cairo Geniza

FAMILY CHANNEL (3)

8:00 Dallas (rpt) 9:00 One Life to Live 9:45 The Young and the Restless (rpt) 10:30 Days of Our Lives (rpt) 11:15 Parla Negra (rpt) 12:00 Zingara 12:45 The Streets of San Francisco 13:25 Duet 14:00 Dallas 14:50 Days of Our Lives 15:35 The Nanny 16:00 Hercules 16:45 Zingara 17:30 New York Daze 18:00 One Life to Live 18:45 The Young and the Restless 19:30 Local broadcast 20:00 Parla Negra 20:50 Cafe Paris 21:15 The Commish 22:05 Renegade

PRIME TIME TV

Table with 8 columns (1-8) and 8 rows (19:30-23:00) listing TV programs like News flash, Basketball, American Gothic, etc.

SECOND SHOWING (6)

22:00 Entre Nous (French, 1982) - two Frenchwomen in the 1950s, one a Jewish Holocaust survivor, leaves their males in an effort to find themselves...

DISCOVERY (8)

6:00 Open University - Astronomers: The Stars; Earth Revealed 12:00 Comrades of the Kalahari (rpt) 13:00 Heart of Healing, part 7 - The Magic of Science (rpt) 14:00 Open University (rpt) 16:00 Comrades of the Kalahari (rpt) 17:00 Heart of Healing, part 7 - The Magic of Science (rpt) 18:00 Open University (rpt) 20:00 Survival, part 26 - Winged Messenger - migration of the crane 21:00 Star Trek: Voyager, part 3 - Galapagos, Tortoise Island, part 3 21:30 Wild South, part 3 21:30 Star Trek: Voyager, part 3 21:30 Star Trek: Voyager, part 3 21:30 Star Trek: Voyager, part 3

STAR PLUS (unconfirmed)

6:00 Master Chels of Florida 6:00 ETV 7:00 Kate and Allie 7:30 Oprah Winfrey 8:30 Picket Fences 9:30 Santa Barbara 10:30 The Bold and the Beautiful 11:00 Tahitian 12:30 Land of the Giants 13:30 Black Stallion 14:00 Kate and Allie 14:30 Master Chels of Florida 15:00 Amul India Show 15:30 News in Hindi 16:00 Small World 16:30 Ghutan 17:30 Star News 18:00 Are You Being Served? 18:30 Baywatch 19:30 The Bold and the Beautiful 20:00 Santa Barbara 21:00 Star News 21:30 Baywatch Nights 22:30 Inspector Morse 00:30 Oprah Winfrey 1:30 Barnaby Jones 2:30 Hindi program

CHANNEL 5

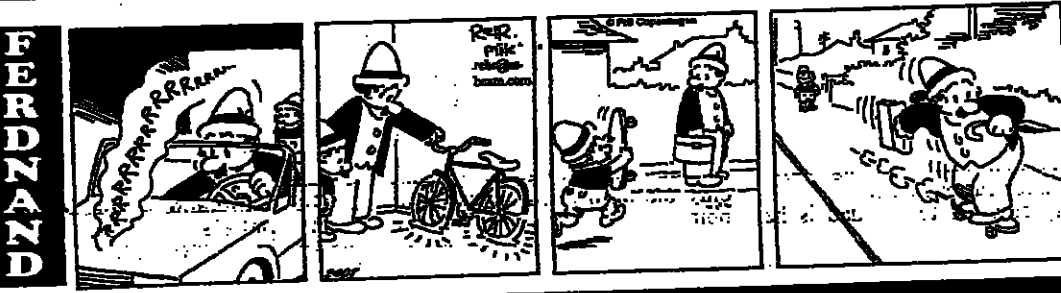
6:30 Bodies in Motion 16:00 Bodies in Motion 16:30 Surfing: World Championship (rpt) 17:30 Soccer: World Cup qualifying match - England vs. Italy (rpt) 18:30 NFL-AFC Pro Bowl game from Hawaii 22:00 Spanish League Soccer

SUPER CHANNEL

6:00 Great Houses (rpt) 6:30 VIP (rpt) 7:00 The Ticket (rpt) 7:30 NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw 8:00 Today 10:00 European

MOVIES

Jerusalem Cinematheque: 5 * Barton Fink 7:15 * City of Hope + Return of the Fink 7:15 * City of Hope + Return of the Fink 7:15 * City of Hope + Return of the Fink...



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS 1 Reveal what the bride's father must do (4,4) 5 Saw rival tie the knot (6) 9 Debate occurs when the lecture's finished (4,4) 10 Small pearls unusually thin on the ground (6) 11 Adjusted well after being given a slot (6,2) 12 Bolster military captive taking sick (6) 14 No-one gets charged for public affray (4-3-3) 18 Little activity in a country of speculators (10) 22 Old goner rehabilitated in America (6) 23 She and I made admission of love and allegiance (8) 24 Contract to acquire unfinished sketch (4,2) 25 Graduate takes quiz from assembly-room (8) 26 Wise man goes round Illinois for fodder (6) 27 Water privatisation could involve it (5,3) DOWN 1 Escape punishment? Go away! (3,3) 2 Manservant has a dance (6) 3 Loved causing trouble to a Labourer (6) 4 Better I speak after serving out meal (10) 6 Sht up! (8) 7 Freeing woodlark may burden an employee (8) 8 Succeeds in getting dear before spring (4,4) 13 Used to be found on a clock (6) 15 Virtually of equal worth (2,4,2) 16 It's played for the HQ dances (8) 17 Still indebted after setting up a trust (8) 19 Agency neither good nor bad (8) 20 Note article containing the fewest things possible (6) 21 Packed as a precaution (2,4)

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: 1. Short, 4. Passage, 8. Despair, 9. Plank, 10. Lit up, 11. Terrier, 13. Man, 14. Breeze, 15. Manger, 16. Man, 17. Breeze, 18. Duet, 19. Snaps, 20. Harrier, 22. Out, 23. Giant.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS 1 Dried stalks (5) 4 Inters (6) 9 Ivy (7) 10 An opera (5) 11 Blasphemy (4) 12 Arthur's town (7) 13 Enquire (3) 14 Spruce (4) 16 Act (4) 18 Billiards rod (3) 20 Wart (7) 21 Arab market (4) 24 Gid's name (5) 25 Delight (7) 26 Sada's predecessor (5) 27 Adversary (5) DOWN 1 Italian title (6) 2 Oven-cook (5) 3 Abandoned child (4) 5 Final (6) 6 Narrow-minded (7) 7 Barely sufficient (6) 8 Spitting material (5) 13 Cut off (8) 15 Ornamental screen (7) 17 Famous diarist (6) 18 Military trainee (5) 19 Very thin (6) 22 Express view (5) 23 Die away (4)

Israelis advance in satellite

Magnets Frankel race held today

Two rabbis remanded in alleged bribes-for-conversion scheme

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Following a television report documenting a case in which a couple paid thousands of dollars for a quickie conversion to Judaism, the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday remanded two religious functionaries for eight days each.

The incident, filmed by a hidden camera and shown on Ilana Dayan's *Fact* program on Channel 2 on Tuesday night, showed Rabbi Michael Dushinsky, the kashrut supervisor in the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry, taking \$15,000 in cash from a Jerusalem reporter and a kibbutz volunteer from Peru, who posed as a couple who said the woman was pregnant and they wanted a fast conversion so they could marry.

The film showed Dushinsky telling the couple that a conversion normally took a year or more, but that they would be provided with false witnesses who would tell a rabbinical court that the woman had lived with them and followed an observant Jewish way of life.

The court remanded Dushinsky, 51, of Petah Tikva, and Rabbi Binyamin Bar-Zohar, 46, of Jerusalem, who had functioned as the rabbi of the Mateh Yehuda Regional Council. Police told the court that since the program was aired, they had received many similar complaints from the public and that this was apparently a common phenomenon.

The police said Dushinsky had taken bribes ranging from \$7,000 to \$15,000, promising to complete the conversion process within two weeks. He then allegedly passed two-thirds of the money to Bar-Zohar, who in turn allegedly used his connections in the rabbinical courts to facilitate the conversion. The police said that they knew of at least 10 such cases and that they



Rabbi Binyamin Bar-Zohar (left) and Rabbi Michael Dushinsky yesterday at Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court.



(Tan Oseledyev/Israel Sun)

had found \$32,000 in Dushinsky's home.

Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai yesterday expressed his shock and announced that Dushinsky would be immediately suspended.

Deputy Religious Affairs ministers Yigal Bibi and Arye Gamliel yesterday called a press conference, which they termed an open session of the "conversion authority," a body apparently organized in the wake of the scandal, with the participation of representatives from the ministry, the Chief Rabbinate, and the Tsomet Institute, which organizes conversion courses. A ministry spokesman said the body included

a representative of the Absorption Ministry, but none was present.

Bibi said that Dushinsky and Bar-Zohar were not rabbis and not part of the conversion apparatus. In an apparent reference to the Reform and Conservative movements, Bibi said that if conversion would be as "certain groups want," the situation regarding conversion would be as depicted in *Fact*.

However, Bibi admitted that he had not acted since November, when Anat Galili, spokesperson for the Reform Movement's Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC), had told the Knesset Aliya and Absorption Committee of dozens of cases in which conversion can-

didates had been asked for bribes. At the time, Bibi had told Galili to go to the police.

Rabbi Yisrael Rosen, head of the Tsomet Institute, said that it was impossible to fool the special conversion courts used by the institute, but he acknowledged that with false witnesses it would be possible to fool a regular rabbinical court.

Rosen estimated the number converted by the special courts at 500 to 600 candidates a year, while Rabbi Rafi Dayan, an aide to Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron, who heads the rabbinical courts, said that a total of 700 to 800 people are converted annually by recognized

Orthodox rabbinical courts, of some 1,000 to 1,200 who wish to be converted.

Rabbi Einat Ramon, spokesperson for the Conservative Movement, said that almost half of those asking to be converted by Conservative rabbis had done so in reaction to being asked for bribes by those close to the Orthodox establishment.

Rabbi Uri Regev, head of the IRAC said that the bribery was a result of the monopoly of the Orthodox and their rigid and arbitrary procedures. He, too, spoke of conversion candidates who had first attempted an Orthodox conversion and had been disillusioned by demands for money.

Ayalon Hasson: I'm being stalked

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Channel 1 reporter Ayala Hasson says she has been stalked by agents from two different organizations since she revealed the alleged "Bar-On" for Hebron affair, concerning the appointment of Roni Bar-On as attorney-general.

Hasson, who spoke on Israel Radio yesterday, called one group of stalkers "the good guys" and the other "the bad guys." She would not say who they were, but said she knows what investigating agency hired "the bad guys."

Hasson said the stalkers operate, both detectives on foot on her street and agents in cars waiting on Sderot David Hamlech, which is the only way out of her street. Yesterday, she said, one side had three female detectives on her street watching her.

She said the "bad guys" interest could be to see whom she meets in the hope of finding out what she knows or who her sources are. On one occasion, to shake off her stalkers, she advised "the good guys" when she intended to leave, and they took off in their car in one direction. As soon as they started driving off, they were followed by "the bad guys," who assumed "the good guys" were on Hasson's tracks.

Last week, the Jaffa villa of sculptor Ilana Gur was broken into, immediately after Hasson had visited there. None of the artworks or jewels was touched, and only a cellular telephone and bag of documents were taken.

WEATHER

Haifa	6-17	Tiberias	4-18
Afula	1-17	Samaria	3-14
Tel Aviv	7-17	Jerusalem	2-14
Benebrata	2-15	Dead Sea	10-20
Elitz	7-22		

Forecast: Partly cloudy, chance of rain.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH			
	C	F			
Amsterdam	06	43	08	46	rain
Berlin	08	48	11	50	rain
Bombay	27	84	31	88	clear
Calcutta	27	84	31	88	clear
Chicago	07	45	16	59	cloudy
Frankfurt	08	48	11	50	rain
Geneva	06	41	08	46	rain
Hong Kong	13	55	19	66	cloudy
London	08	48	11	50	rain
Los Angeles	10	50	17	63	cloudy
Madrid	05	41	18	64	clear
Moscow	01	34	02	35	cloudy
New York	07	45	12	54	cloudy
Paris	06	43	15	59	cloudy
Rome	04	39	15	59	cloudy
Sydney	16	61	22	72	rain
Tokyo	08	48	13	55	clear
Toronto	05	37	03	37	cloudy
Vienna	08	48	11	50	cloudy
Zurich	08	48	11	50	cloudy

Winning cards

In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the queen of spades, the jack of hearts, the 10 of diamonds and the 10 of clubs.

Millon: Increase France-Israel ties

By STEVE RODAN and ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

French Defense Minister Charles Millon pledged yesterday to revive the 1994 defense cooperation accord with Israel, saying he wants to increase sales of military equipment between the two countries.

Touring Israel Aircraft Industries outside Lod, Millon acknowledged that the nearly three-year-old accord has not produced a significant volume of sales. The total annual volume of military trade between the two countries is \$60 million.

"It's true that in the exchange of equipment between France and Israel and France, the numbers are not high," Millon said. "We have to increase these numbers. This cooperation is not just economic but political."

Millon said he hoped his two-day visit would lead to increased joint cooperation in the defense industries. He said he expects heightened activity in the months leading

to the Paris Air Show in June.

The French defense minister pointed to a little-publicized arms deal between Israel and France. This involved the acquiring of five Dolphin helicopters from the US subsidiary of the Paris-based Aerospatiale, Eurocopter.

At the same time, IAI agreed to deliver the Hunter, an unmanned air vehicle, to the French. French officials said this was an exchange of the Dolphin for the Hunter.

IAI officials said French-Israeli cooperation could extend into several spheres, such as electro-optics, avionics and satellites.

Next month, IAI chairman Avigdor Ben-Gal and IAI director-general Moshe Keret are to visit Paris as part of an Israeli delegation to explore joint cooperation with French defense industries. Ben-Gal said the goal is to develop a project from concept to production of a system.

French-Israeli defense cooperation had been virtually nil since president Charles de Gaulle

imposed an arms embargo on Israel after the Six Day War. However, the 1994 defense cooperation agreement has led to some efforts, including a high-level strategic dialogue between the defense ministries of both countries.

Still, defense industry sources said France, rated the world's third-largest defense exporter, sees Israel as a competitor in many areas. In addition, French fear of losing its Arab and Islamic customers has dampened any enthusiasm for much defense cooperation.

However, Millon, on his first visit to Israel, said he was sending a top defense official here next week to lay the foundations for joint projects. France is interested in Israeli weapons technology, particularly in armor protection and avionics.

Prior to his visit with the IDF, Millon was received by an honor guard at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv and met Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai for the first time. Mordechai briefed Millon on

the strategic situation in the Middle East and told him that Iranian and Iraqi quests to obtain non-conventional weapons would disrupt the entire region's stability.

During their discussions, Mordechai also sought French involvement in seeking a solution to the Lebanon situation. Mordechai told Millon that peace with Lebanon could pave the way to peace with Syria.

"Lebanon can be the starter which will move the political process with Syria and Lebanon, but it can also be a gigantic mine field which can harm the entire process," Mordechai said. "If our citizens and soldiers continue to be harmed, we are likely to come to an escalation which will take us backwards instead of forwards."

Millon replied that it was in his government's interest to find a political solution that will give Israel security in the framework of an arrangement between Israel and Lebanon. Israeli defense officials said.



French Defense Minister Charles Millon (left) tours Israel Aircraft Industries with IAI managing director Moshe Keret yesterday. (Tan Oseledyev/Israel Sun)

Bill would require outside probes for IDF accidents

By LIAT COLLINS

The Knesset yesterday passed the preliminary reading of a bill which would place the inquiries of IDF training accidents in the hands of an independent, external investigator with the status of a judge. The bill was raised by MK Avi Yehzekel (Labor) and supported in the vote. Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai. It passed unanimously by 31 votes.

Although the government opposes the bill, Mordechai voted in favor at the last moment in view of the helicopter accident. The bill relates only to training accidents, but Yehzekel hopes to present another bill to cover operational accidents such as the helicopter disaster.

Sarid: Meretz is not a party of Sheinkinites

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

"We [in Meretz] are not patronizing or Sheinkinites, we are always with the underdogs and the underprivileged, and they will never have a more loyal ally than Meretz," MK Yossi Sarid said yesterday at the Meretz founding convention.

The convention marked the merger of the three factions comprising Meretz - the Citizens Rights Movement, Mapam and Shimi - into one party after five years of co-existence as three separate parties.

The parties' respective leaders decided it was time to unite the forces supporting the establishment of a Palestinian state and fighting for equality for individuals and groups, regardless of religion, origin, sex and sexual preferences.

The merger will also make it easier to field one candidate for prime minister, should the party decide to do so.

Sarid rejected the argument that Meretz represents the elite classes of north Tel Aviv, and has a patronizing attitude toward the poor or development town residents.

"People are always attaching false stigmas to us, saying we're patronizing. That's nonsense. We talk to the entire public, trying to persuade. We don't throw sand in people's eyes, we don't distribute umlets, we don't promise peace

free of charge, for there is no free peace.

"All those who do those things, they are patronizing, because they think the public can be led astray. We are not giving up on any sector of the public; we are the true allies of the weaker classes and the underprivileged."

Sarid admitted that these sectors have turned their back on Meretz in recent years "because in the past it was difficult for them to digest our policy concerning the peace process. But now that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is shaking hands with [Yasser] Arafat, they don't need Netanyahu and can come to us, because that's what we've been saying for 25 years."

CRM founder Shulamit Aloni spoke of "other days" which prevailed here until November 4, 1995, the day of Yitzhak Rabin's assassination. "On that day, she said, 'we could see another future, which was severed.'

"So sure were we of the rightness of our way, that we ignored the growling voices around us, the deceiving words and roars of madness from Jerusalem's Zion Square and from the rioters of Zo Arzenn. We dismissed the inciting hoodlums such as the Waldmang and the Kahanists, the Levungers and Hanan Poratz, and the Benny Elons and his crowd."

Aloni stressed that Meretz's "rock of existence" is tolerance, humanism and decency.

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- CD3 Pergolesi, Leu: Salve Regina (first ever recording) - Barbara Schlick, Europa Galante, Fabio Biondi
- CD4 Lasso: Villanelle, moresche e altre canzoni - Concerto Italiano, Rinaldo Alessandrini
- CD5 Marenzio: Madrigals for four voices (first ever recording) - Concerto Italiano, Rinaldo Alessandrini

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